



Thursday, August 6, 2015

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SHOCK AT EXCLUSION OF PUPILS

Report by Richard Guttridge



Councillor Ian Cooper

Youngsters in village design new play area

AN £80,000 skate park and play area for older children has been opened on playing fields in Hagley.

Youngsters in the village were asked for their views on what play equipment they wanted to see installed as part of the project at Hagley Playing Fields.

Hagley Parish Council launched the scheme, supported by officers from Bromsgrove District Council.

The play area has been funded by the recent Kendrick Homes' Sweetpool Gardens housing development in the village via a Section 106 agreement, that's a statutory contribution by a developer.

Chairman of the parish council Steve Coella said: "We were approached by a group of teenagers looking for things to do and ways of constructively occupying their spare time in Hagley. Praise and thanks also goes to the children who helped us to design the equipment and took part in the survey."

Fellow parish councillor Rachel Jenkins said: "It was most satisfying and enjoyable taking part in the public consultation with primary school children and seeing first hand their enthusiasm."

Merry Hill centre value up by £11m

THE value of Merry Hill Shopping Centre has shot up by almost £11 million, its owners have confirmed.

Intra Properties, which owns half the complex, says the nine per cent rise is due to more valuable rents.

The Brierley Hill shopping complex rose in value from £434.5m at the end of December to £445.6m at the end of June.

Intra has plans to spend £65m on enhancing the centre, which is also owned by QIC. It spent £403.8m on buying 50 per cent of the centre, which has 214 shops and generates £22.6m annual income.

Chief executive David Fischel said retailers were responding positively to taking space in centres where change and investment are under way. He added: "We attract over 400 million customer visits a year and aim to provide them with a great experience which encourages them to come more often, stay for longer and spend more with our retailers."

The company owns and operates many of the UK's biggest and most popular retail destinations.

Meanwhile, Australian stationary firm Smiggle has opened at new store Merry Hill, creating 10 jobs.

Across the region pupils were barred for assaulting adults and fellow students, threatening behaviour and for use of drugs and alcohol, but the most common reason was for persistent disruptive behaviour.

After Dudley, Walsall saw the next highest amount of exclusions in Black Country at 60 - 0.12 per cent of the school population.

There were 40 exclusions in Sandwell, which was equivalent to 0.08 per cent.

Attacks

In total, 750 pupils were permanently excluded from West Midlands schools.

In Dudley, five pupils physically assaulted adults while there were 17 attacks on pupils. Some 32 pupils were excluded for persistent disruption.

Woodside Primary School, in Highgate Road, Dudley, plunged into special measures in June after Ofsted inspectors witnessed pupils using physical violence against classmates - including children being kicked in the head and stomach.

Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services at Dudley Council, said: "We continue to work hard in partnership with all schools to further reduce school days lost to exclusion, both fixed term and permanent. Year on year there has been a clear trend in fixed term exclusions."

"We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Dudley get the best possible access to education."

"Whilst exclusions are sometimes necessary, both for the wellbeing of the student concerned and other students in the school, schools work hard at finding ways of supporting all young people to access learning."

The council said temporary exclusions at its schools were below the regional average.

Young cricket fans have rain covered



Pedmore Cricket Club Under 11s team with two of their pitch covers that have been brought thanks to our Cash for Communities scheme

Community boost

A JUNIOR cricket club can now beat the weather as well as their opposition after purchasing pitch covers thanks to an Express & Star competition.

Pedmore Cricket Club was among the winners of last year's Cash For Your Community campaign, receiving £725.

Treasurer Mick Bourne said: "We bought flat sheet covers for the junior square and they have come in extremely useful so far. They are usually very expensive."

"The covers have allowed us to keep the square dry for two to three days before a big game and now we don't have to call off matches anymore."

We have had covers for the main square before but the junior

square has always got sodden - ending up with us calling off so many matches."

Founded in 1887, Pedmore Cricket Club competes in the top division of the Worcestershire County League, a feeder league to the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League in the ECB pyramid structure. The club is based in Pedmore Hall Lane, Stourbridge.

The scheme was run in partnership with HomeServe. Almost 100 groups received a share of the £30,000 cash pot. HomeServe put £20,000 towards the prize fund, with the Midland News Association, parent company to the Express & Star and The Chronicle, investing the remaining £10,000.

DRUGS

£2m cannabis haul seized during July

THOUSANDS of cannabis plants worth almost £2 million were seized by West Midlands Police during July.

The Cannabis Disposal Team said 3,637 plants were seized and destroyed last month. The figures include 647 cannabis plants found when police swooped on Shenstone Industrial Estate in Halesowen on Friday morning.

One man was arrested and taken to Brierley Hill police station for questioning. It also follows the discovery of more than 1,300 cannabis plants in Willenhall last Wednesday.

BUSINESS

Company's workers will be on the move

HUNDREDS of workers are to be moved from the Black Country to a multi-million pound new headquarters to be built next to Birmingham Airport.

Construction and services group Interserve aims to bring together staff from its sites across the region at the new office block in 2018.

Around 1,200 people will move from offices at Dudley, West Bromwich, Erdington, Redditch and the company's RMD Kwikform business at Aldridge. No job losses are anticipated.

CARAVANS

Travellers return to park despite bollards

TRAVELLERS have moved back onto land in Halesowen.

Caravans returned to Hurst Green Park just weeks after a group was moved on.

Dudley Council said it was working with the police to try to remove them.

Their arrivals comes despite efforts to try to secure the site with bollards and by locking gates.

Travellers were last seen at Hurst Green Park in June.

Council spokeswoman Jessica Haines said: "We are aware of the current situation and are working with the police to try and remove them."

INSIDE

MEERKAT'S SELFIE



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Drug dealer Elton Hoxha

Dealer caught with £100k of heroin

A DRUG dealer has been jailed for nine years after police caught him in a car with £100,000 worth of heroin.

Elton Hoxha, 25, was found guilty of possession with intent to supply the Class A drug and money laundering following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Hoxha, of Wychbury Road, Stourbridge, was part of a drug dealing ring, the jury had heard.

On January 13, father-of-three Hoxha was a front seat passenger in the Vauxhall Corsa driven by Arber Zyba when it was pulled over by police. Faition

Duduci was in the back seat with 1kg of heroin in two packages next to him. Police officers stopped the car on Park Road, Lye, and arrested the trio.

Judge Martin Walsh said it was clear from mobile phone evidence that the network Hoxha was involved with was 'sophisticated' and he intended distribution of the heroin.

Hoxha had denied both charges.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said: 'Mr Hoxha was not sitting with the drugs and didn't touch the drugs.'

She added that there was no drug paraphernalia in his house.

When he was arrested, officers found £14,000 in cash at Hoxha's home.

Judge Walsh said: 'Class A drugs destroy individuals' lives and blight communities. All those who cynically involve themselves must expect significant sentences.'

Duduci, 22, of Vicarage Road, Lye, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply and money laundering. He will be sentenced later this year. Zyba, 28, of Holly Lane, Erdington, was found not guilty of possession with intent to supply.

More than £2m unpaid rent owed to council

COUNCIL house tenants in Dudley owe more than £2 million in unpaid rent.

Thousands of accounts are in arrears, Dudley Council says, and the total amount owed stands at £2,106,492.

At the end of June at total of 9,767 accounts were in arrears but the council said these included tenants that paid on a monthly basis by direct debit or standing order.

The amount owed is up on last year's figure. This time last year the bill was £1,405,690 with 5,435 accounts in arrears.

Bosses said although these accounts are technically in arrears they would not be taking any action unless they missed a payment. Reminder letters and text messages are sent to those owing rent. Phone calls and visits are also made by the housing team before legal action is taken.

The council says it will always work to reclaim debt but advice and help was available for those families struggling to pay their bills.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "Where we do not receive payment, we will go to court to seek possession. This can result in eviction if no payment arrangement is made."

"We recognise that our tenants may be experiencing financial difficulty and will always try to support them to make payments, sustain their tenancy and clear arrears."

Fraud

Sixty council tenants were evicted between April 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 after falling behind on payments.

In 2014/15, the council launched more than 460 investigations in 12 months and uncovered 164 cases of housing fraud. The authority also seized 60 properties after discovering tenants breaking the rules.

People were caught giving the wrong information on housing applications, unlawfully sub-letting their homes and not using their rented property as their main home.

In June, it emerged the council is owed £2.5 million in unpaid council tax from last year. Thousands of council tax accounts were not paid in full by the end of the 2014/15 financial year. But bosses say the authority has an excellent track record for clawing back money owed.

Video captures migrants fleeing lorry



One of the migrants makes a run for it in Stourbridge leaving a hole in the lorry where they were stowaways

A VIDEO showing three migrants slash their way out of a lorry and vanish into the Black Country to make a new life has emerged.

Border security officials are struggling to keep the crisis at Calais under control with hundreds of migrants attempting to force their way across the Channel – and these images show three have made it all the way to Stourbridge.

The footage filmed on the A458 at Stourbridge on Tuesday of last week shows three people emerge

from inside a parked lorry after cutting through the side of it.

After going undetected for more than 200 miles across England, they made their escape in Stourbridge as one after another they leaped from the lorry and ran off into the town.

Stourbridge councillor Mohamed Hanif was stunned on learning of the trio's arrival. He said: "It is shocking news, we cannot allow that. It is a huge thing going on in Calais and we need to control it as

much as we possibly can."

Extra sniffer dogs and fencing has been sent to Calais to try and curb the wave of migrants making it across the border and it appears that French police are taking a tougher approach after high level talks between the British and French governments.

The crisis has had a major impact on holidaymakers and hauliers facing long queues in Kent.

● To view the video online visit www.expressandstar.com

Worker gets payout over serious leg injury agony

A WORKER who suffered a severe leg injury has won a payout from his former employer after they admitted breaching health and safety guidelines.

Labourer Glenn Lowe slipped on loose block paving when carrying a heavy kitchen unit, which fell onto his leg and left him badly injured.

Weeks later his symptoms worsened and he suffered from various infections. He was left in constant pain and has since been diagnosed with a chronic pain condition.

In June last year, more than a year after he received the injury in May 2013, he was dismissed from his job.

The 47-year-old then instructed specialist serious injury lawyers to investigate his case to see if his employers, Grelson Limited, based in Stourbridge, had breached health and safety guidelines.

Solicitors firm Irwin Mitchell have now secured him an undisclosed settlement from his former employer to help towards his ongoing rehabilitation.

Father-of-one Mr Lowe is now hoping to move to a bungalow due to his difficulties with mobility as a result of the accident.

He said: "This will be a huge help to my family and now with the ongoing medical care and access to rehabilitation services I can focus all my time and energy on my recovery. I have relied on my wife Penny and my daughter heavily since the accident and they have been absolutely fantastic."

Grelson Limited declined to comment.

New skills offer in courses for adults

WORKSHOPS and learning courses for adults will start in September in Dudley.

Details are available in Dudley Council's latest adult learning brochure and on the council's website at www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning

The part-time courses take place in local community centres and include visual and performing arts, history and heritage, computers, healthy living, family learning, and languages, including sign language.

Courses are also available for people who want to catch up on basic skills such as reading, writing and maths as well as courses for people whose first language is not English.

For further information call (01384) 818143 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/knowledge

Caravan destroyed in mystery blaze

A CARAVAN was destroyed when it went up in flames in Dudley. An outbuilding was also damaged in the blaze off Stourbridge Road on Thursday. Crews from Brierley Hill were called but the caravan was gutted by the mysterious fire, which started around 1pm.

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More than 450 thefts reported at care homes

MORE than 450 thefts were reported at care and nursing homes in the West Midlands during the last three years, new figures reveal.

Jewellery, cash and medication were among items stolen from residents, with the value of lost property totalling tens of thousands of pounds.

Despite the hundreds of incidents reported, investigations resulted in only 33 people being charged. Two were care home workers.

In total, 465 thefts were reported at care homes and nursing homes between January 2012 and June 2015.

Thieves' most popular item of choice were mobile phones but laptops, a credit card, a passport and a sat nav were also taken. The most expensive item stolen was a piece of jewellery worth £4,000.

But figures released by West Midlands Police showed that thefts from care and nursing homes had fallen.

Surprising

Dudley's Councillor Steve Waltho said the figures were surprising but added: "There are hundreds of care homes and hospitals across the Midlands and we don't know how these figures compare with the rest of the country. My mother is in a care home and I know how vigilant they try to be. It's also important to remember carers themselves are also victims."

Councillor Waltho said CCTV at care homes could help prevent thefts but it was also important residents were given privacy.

Help for carers is some of best

PEOPLE who look after relatives or friends in Dudley are the most satisfied in the West Midlands with the support they receive, according to figures.

Data from the Government's Health and Social Care Information Centre shows 48.8 per cent are either extremely or very satisfied with social care services - a figure above the national average of 41.5 per cent.

This places Dudley at the top 25 English councils in terms of carer satisfaction.

Adult social care boss Councillor Dave Branwood said: "We are very pleased to see that the support we offer to carers is valued and making a difference. However there is always more we can do."

Firm support for table tennis table

A DUDLEY company came to the rescue of sporty Age UK seniors by mending their table tennis table. ASD Metal Services, Peartree Lane, fixed the table's metal strut after it broke at Springboard Activity Centre.



Fewer use the Ring and Ride service

THE number of journeys made by the door-to-door Ring and Ride service has dropped by more than a quarter of a million.

Figures show the service for elderly and disabled people took 1,010,908 trips in 2014-15, compared with 1,286,418 the year before.

The service has been charging for trips since 2011 but bosses at transport authority Centro said declining use started before charges were introduced.

But a campaigner said she believed the £2 per journey charge at evenings

and weekends had played a key part. Pat O'Dowd of the Wolverhampton branch of the National Pensioners Convention said: "The charge for evenings and weekends is almost as much as the standard fare to go by bus, which pensioners get free with their passes."

"We have also been saying for a while that it is very difficult to get through to the call centre and book time. It's not often possible to get the time you want. Ring and Ride is meant to be a door-to-door service and a lot of people need it to visit friends."

The service is aimed at people who cannot easily use conventional public transport.

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "Ring and Ride is an extremely popular door-to-door transport service for people who find it difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport, and while there is a long-term downward trend in its use this started before the introduction of the charge in 2011. In recent years conventional public transport has become much more accessible than before thanks to innovations."

Waste plant in push to double its capacity

A WASTE plant near Stourbridge could double its capacity under fresh plans submitted by Severn Trent Water.

The site at Roundhill Sewage Treatment Works would process up to 48,500 tons of biodegradable organic waste each year and generate enough electricity to power around 1,250 households.

By converting the waste rather than allowing it to be put into landfill, the new facility in Gibbet Lane would offset the same amount of carbon produced by more than 71,000 cars each year.

It would involve a process called anaerobic digestion and the facility will run alongside the existing works, which have been in operation since the 1930s.

A spokesman for the company said: "Severn Trent has identified an opportunity to lessen the carbon footprint of the current operations at Roundhill and reduce the risk around increasing electricity supply, whilst also capitalising on the availability of excess brownfield land on their substantial land holding."

Renewable

"Anaerobic digestion offers a local, environmentally sound option for waste management which assists the country in diverting waste from landfill, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, producing renewable energy which can be used to power homes and vehicles and also producing a fertiliser that returns valuable nutrients to the land."

If approved, the scheme would involve the building of a reception block, five storage tanks and a gas engine.

Commercial and industrial waste from sources including schools, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and food manufacturers within 40 miles would be fed into the plant.

It is then biologically treated without using oxygen but naturally occurring micro-organisms to produce 'biogas'.

The majority of this is then upgraded to biomethane and fed into the National Grid, with some of the biogas utilised on-site to power a gas engine.

As part of the process a nutrient rich bio-fertiliser is also produced that can be used as both a fertiliser and a soil improver.



War veteran Tom Bull, aged 88, grappled with an intruder in his home and made the burglar flee after hitting him with his walking stick

Old soldier fought off burglar in his home

THE granddaughter of a war veteran who fought off a burglar with his walking stick has spoken of her pride in her 88-year-old tough guy.

Tom Bull sent the raider packing after he forced his way into his Kingswinford bungalow. His granddaughter Deborah Smith said he wouldn't hesitate to do it again.

The great-great grandfather came across the burglar in his hallway after he was woken by a noise. The pair struggled and Mr Bull suffered cuts to his arms but reached for his walking stick and hit the intruder over the head with it. The raider fled empty-handed.

Mr Bull, who served with the Welsh Guards during the Second World War, said: "I was a little bit shook up but I'm alright."

The brave pensioner has angina and has to receive oxygen.

Ms Smith, a pharmacist, said: "He is a tough guy. He may be 88 but he is no shrinking violet. We need to prevent this happening to another person, perhaps a small old lady."

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crowds gather as charity shop opens

A QUEUE of more than 100 shopped snaked through Dudley town centre on Friday for the opening of a charity shop.

The Mary Stevens Hospice shop has opened in the former WH Smith building in High Street.

Managing director Simon Henwood said: "It was an unusually high turn out. There was a lot of interest."

The grand opening at 11am was attended by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho and the crowds were entertained by Black Country comedy troupe The Fizzogs.

Red Lemons in second concert

LEGENDARY Black Country group The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band have added an extra home town date after their first reunion gig sold out.

The band formed in 1985 and supported the likes of Chuck Berry, as well as gigging regularly around Birmingham and the Black Country. Future TV presenter Suzi Perry, whose father Tony managed them, would sometimes appear with the group.

Following the September 11 gig, a second on September 12 at Stourbridge Hall is available at www.wolvescivic.co.uk or on 0870 320 7000.

Get information on foster caring

PEOPLE interested in becoming foster carers are being urged to attend information sessions.

Dudley Council's fostering service is looking for new carers to provide homes for children in the borough.

Fostering Friday drop-in session take place every Friday from 1pm to 4pm at Flipside House, Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill.

Call the fostering service on (01384) 815833 for more information.

Private bar in shed was destroyed by fire

A FIRE completely destroyed a shed that was being used as a private bar at a home in Pensnett.

Firefighters were called to the property in Commonside at 3am on Saturday to tackle a blaze in two wooden structures in the back garden of the property.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Dudley attended the incident and used two hose reels to put out the fire. Firefighters left the scene just after 5am.

Road delay warning

MOTORISTS have been warned to expect delays on a main route into Stourbridge due to gas pipe work.

National Grid will be carrying out works on Hagley Road, near its junction with Birmingham Road. The work will begin tomorrow (Friday) and is expected to last for four days.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I'VE just found a website which calculates how long you have been alive – in my case, at the moment of writing, 2,026,425,600 seconds. Funny, it feels less.

WHAT is it with all these beards? The fashion for facial fungus is infesting the upper lips and chins of young men everywhere. Are beards the new tattoos?

THERE is a theory that beards become fashionable at times when men feel threatened by women or by change in general. They were almost compulsory in Victorian England when there was a woman on the throne and the rise of business corporations made individuals feel less important. Perhaps the rise of feminism accounts for today's crop of beards. Unless, of course, beard-wearers are part of that generation which has gone to university but learned very little and is now eager to appear intellectual. A beard may suggest brainpower where there is actually none. As the critic A Gill put it perfectly: "I've never been convinced that facial hair is an alternative to thought."

THE Lord Sewel coke 'n' hookers scandal has inevitably brought calls for the House of Lords in all its portly, ermine-trimmed magnificence, to be reduced, reformed or possibly dynamited. It ain't going to happen. There are only two organisations that could vote the Lords out of existence. The first is the Lords themselves, which would be like turkeys voting for Christmas, but with extra stuffing. The second is the House of Commons. But Members of Parliament regard the Lords as a delightful place to spend their post-MP years, so they are hardly going to get rid of the best club in town, are they?



"I HOPE my decision will limit and help repair the damage I have done to an institution I hold dear," declares Lord Sewel's resignation statement. The institution in question appears to be the House of Lords. Not marriage, then?

MICHAEL Gambon admits he tried to seduce Joanne Whalley while they were starring in *The Singing Detective* back in 1986. He was almost twice her age and admits he "got nowhere". Which must come as a relief to millions. Miss Whalley played the 22-year-old nurse in the BBC musical drama and I seem to recall we were all in love with her.

FROM custard pies to banana skins, the oldest and most reliable form of humour is the one based on somebody else's misfortune. If you doubt that, catch the new TV advert for Dreams beds which begins with some sleepy-headed bloke getting a tennis ball smack in the kisser. I challenge you not to laugh.

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Prints on wine bottle led to arrest

A BURGLAR'S weakness for wine has landed him back behind bars.

Shaun Mitton stuck twice in an Amblecote street, burgling buildings on either side of the road.

The 33-year-old first targeted an address left empty while the occupant was away, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He escaped with four passports and £200 worth of clothing from the property in High

Street on September 11, said Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

Then Mitton slipped through a conservatory window left open for the family cat at a bungalow opposite as the family slept.

He searched everywhere except the bedrooms and took £60 cash, a computer, ID card and household ornaments, at least one of which was of high sentimental value.

Police in Stourbridge found one of the stolen passports weeks later and traced it back to the address. The scene was the same because the owner was still away and fingerprints on a half drunk bottle of wine matched those of Mitton, who was found and arrested.

A cigarette butt on a window ledge at the other burgled property has his DNA on it.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: "He was in the grip of drug addiction and, at the time, was homeless after being evicted from his flat for rent arrears. That is why he consumed food and drink on the premises."

Mitton, of Halesowen Road, Dudley, who had previous convictions for 80 offences, admitted the burglaries and was jailed for two years by Judge Stephen Eyre QC.

Homes plan for derelict Legion HQ in village

A FORMER Royal British Legion building in Kinver, which has become a target for vandals since closing, could be demolished to make way for new homes in the village.

The Kinver branch of the Legion was based in High Street until 2007. The building has become an eyesore having fallen into disrepair and being subject to vandalism.

Now a developer has come forward with a plan to build six homes on the site.

Councillors have welcomed the development and say they hope the plans will tidy the site.

Kinver councillor and Royal British Legion committee member Henry Williams is hopeful the development will come to fruition after previous proposals to convert the building into offices and a play centre failed to go ahead.

Kinver Parish Council has given the latest plans their approval and the scheme will come before South Staffordshire Council on August 18.

Councillor Williams said: "This is about the sixth planning application that has gone through and the sooner anything gets done with it the better."

The Kinver branch of the Royal British Legion was forced to abandon its home when it was no longer deemed to be viable and now meet at the Kinver Constitutional Club.

Brian Edwards, who represents Kinver on South Staffordshire Council, agreed that it was time for something to be done with the site.

£1.3m towpaths upgrade go-ahead

A £1.3 million scheme that includes revamping canal towpaths to encourage walking and cycling between Kingswinford and Stourbridge has been approved.

It is being carried out as part of the Managing Short Trips project being led by Centro in partnership with the Canal and River Trust and Dudley Council. There will be work to improve a section of national cycle network in Pensnett and a route between the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge to Kingswinford.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "A route linking the National Cycle Network Route 54 at Brierley Hill Centre to Pensnett Trading Estate, and a route linking Stourbridge to Kingswinford are included in the project."

Brass band and singers in fundraising concert

JACKFIELD (Elcock Reisen) Brass Band will be performing with Penn Singers at Dudley Town Hall on October 10 at 7.30pm.

Proceeds of the concert will be shared between two hospices. Tickets can be booked on 01902 652992.

Report by David Cosgrove

THE £3.1 million revamp of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park is pressing ahead with the iconic gates restored and a new cafe opening.

The coffee shop, which replaces a former print room building, adds another feature to encourage families to visit the park.

The Grade II-listed gates were first put up in 1931 after the park was dedicated to the people of Stourbridge by Ernest Stevens in memory of his wife, Mary, who died in 1925. They were originally modelled on the gates to Buckingham Palace. The renovation work involved the first time they had been removed from the park.

At the opening of the new cafe, Deputy Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "The gates look stunning and the cafe is fantastic. The park needs these things to move forward."

Stourbridge MP Margot James paid tribute to the "indefatigable work" of Councillor Heather Rogers, chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park group and to the generosity of original benefactor Mr Stevens.

Bandstand

Mrs James said: "One of the things that first struck me about my constituency when I moved here was the number of green spaces. It's unusual to have so many parks in an urban area, and all of that is down to one man – Ernest Stevens. To my mind he is one of the greatest philanthropists of our century."

Other work taking place includes repairs to the bandstand, the restoration of the war memorial and improvements at Heath Pool.

The project has received cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

Adam Creedy Smith, great-grandson of Ernest Stevens, unveiled photos of his great-grandfather and great-grandmother which will hang in the coffee shop.



At the new cafe, from right, Councillor Heather Rogers, Adam Creedy Smith, Deputy Mayoress Zabeda Khanam, Deputy Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Margot James MP and Councillor Hilary Bills



Work has started on the park's famous bandstand



Volunteer Evie Davenport with a picture of Ernest Stevens

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Choirs sing in aid of hospice at top venue

CHOIRS will take to the stage at Birmingham Symphony Hall to raise funds for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Got 2 Sing choirs will perform their Best of British show at the venue on September 20. Singers from across the Midlands will be covering songs by Adele, Queen, Take That, The Beatles, Elton John and many more successful homegrown artists led by director Beth Dunn.

The hospice's special events manager Charlotte Schofield said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the hospice to partner with such a successful and talented group of local people."

"As soon as Beth approached me I knew the show would be a huge success and a fantastic fundraising opportunity for the Hospice raising vital funds to support patient care as well as their families."

Success

"The event is a fantastic addition to our fundraising calendar."

Beth added: "If it is anything like our last performance at the Symphony Hall it will be a wonderful concert. So much hard work has been put in all round and it has been a delight working with Mary Stevens Hospice."

"I hope the evening proves to be a resounding success, not just for the choir but for the hospice fundraising team too."

Tickets for the concert cost £20 for adults and £16 for under-16s. They are available from the www.thsh.co.uk website.

Homes approved despite objections

HOMES are set to be built on a stretch of vacant land in Dudley after the green light was given to a planning application.

Plans for six homes on a site off Caroline Street, Kates Hill, have been given the go-ahead, despite dozens of residents registering their objections.

More than 60 people had written to Dudley Council to raise concerns about the proposals for the new homes.

They were worried about of the height of the properties, access to the site and the potential for disturbance.

But planning officers supported the scheme saying the latest application only related to the landscaping of the site, which was the only outstanding issue left to be considered.

Mad Hatter bash whips up £250

THE Jolly Crispin pub in Upper Gorham raised £250 for Macmillan Cancer Support nurses during events including a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. On Black Country Day licensee Rob Carey served up traditional grub.

Monkey magic as macaque gives birth



The macaque family at Dudley Zoo

THERE'S been some monkey business at Dudley Zoo in the form of a new arrival who was born in front of delighted visitors.

The macaque monkey was born to proud parents Jasmine and Simon who are pictured showing off their bundle of joy.

Dudley Zoo member Kathryn Willett snapped the family portrait of the trio. The baby is yet to be named.

Zoo bosses said the birth took place in a wooden shelter, with some visitors able to witness it.

Director, Derek Grove, said: "This

is a stunning picture of mum, dad and the new baby. It's rare to get good photos of them all together as the mother usually keeps the baby hidden away at first."

"It just shows how comfortable the macaques are with our visitors as the birth took place in their wooden shelter, rather than mum moving to a more private area."

"Some visitors managed to witness the birth which is absolutely amazing and we are thrilled with the news."

The Sulawesi crested macaque, also

known as the Celebes macaque, is an old world monkey that lives on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

The pink-bottomed, punk-haired animals are the most endangered of the seven macaque species, listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature list.

Dudley Zoo's Head of Upper Primates, Pat Stevens, said: "The baby is doing great. It is healthy and clinging on really well to mum. We won't be able to determine its sex for a little while."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beer festival boost for air ambulance

THE Midlands Air Ambulance has been chosen as the charity to benefit from the Black Country Beer Festival being staged in Lye later this month.

The three-day event is being hosted by Lye Cricket Club in Stourbridge Road from August 13 to 15.

Admission will be £10, which includes a festival glass and £5 of beer tokens.

All donated unused tokens will go to the air ambulance.

There will be 74 real ales on offer. There will also be 29 ciders and perries to try.

Friends hear talk on Magna Carta

THERE will be a talk on the Magna Carta, one of the foundations of democracy, at the next meeting of the Friends of the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre.

Bob Bennett, one of archivists, is guest speaker at the centre in Tipton Road on September 3 at 7.30pm.

Admission is free for members and £2 for visitors.

The friends are also holding a fund-raising coffee morning, which will feature home-made craft stalls, at the centre on Saturday, September 19. The event will run from 11am to 2pm.

Have a say with those in charge

RESIDENTS have been invited to speak directly to the people in charge of community safety.

A 'have your say' event organised by Safe and Sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership, takes place on September 24 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from 6.30pm to 9pm. Residents can meet and ask questions of senior officers and decision-makers from police, council and fire service. To book a place email community.safety@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 814735.

Plans to transform community hospital

EXTRA health clinics, refurbished gym and therapy areas and extra parking spaces will be created as part of a £2 million transformation of Rowley Regis Hospital.

Detailed plans are now being drawn up following a consultation with patients and staff. Work is set to be completed by Easter next year.

Project manager Paul Scott said: "We have a great facility here and we want to see it as a vibrant, healthcare hub for the community."

Sounds of the valleys

A WELSH male voice choir is visiting Dudley for a concert compered by Suze Riddell of Radio 4's The Archers.

Morriston Orpheus Choir will team up with Kingswinford's Gentlemen Songsters at Dudley Town Hall on September 19 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £15, call 01746 963850.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Pubs losing out as big companies set up shop

WHEN John Pickup saved his local pub near Bridgnorth, he had a simple rationale for his efforts: "If we didn't do something, we would have ceased to be a village, we would have become just a collection of houses."

Our community pubs are the fabric of British society, the glue that binds our towns and villages together.

And according to the Campaign for Real Ale, pubs in the West Midlands are still closing at the rate of around six a week.

Now I'm not one of those diehards who believe it is a tragedy whenever a pub shuts its doors.

Let's be honest, while we may have lost many excellent pubs over the past 10 years or so, we have also lost some pretty dreadful ones.

You know the sort I mean, the nondescript boozers, often staffed by a succession of short-term managers, the sort that specialise in stale cobs, bland lager, and an occasional knuckle sandwich just after last orders. Should we really mourn their passing?

But the sad thing is that, as the economy picks up, it is not just the failing pubs which are under threat, but the thriving, popular ones too.

The Seven Stars in Sedgley and the Hasbury Inn in Halesowen are both popular, well-frequented pubs in pleasant, close-knit communities.

They are not at risk of closure because they struggle to pull in the punters, but simply because the sites they occupy are more valuable to the supermarket giants.

The battle over the Seven Stars seems to have been rumbling on for years. The local authority refused planning permission, so the Morrison's simply got the decision overturned by Whitehall, just 10 years after being told to relinquish its supermarket in the village centre by the Monopolies Commission.

So much for localism and devolution.

And there will then be tough times indeed for the long-established independent convenience stores in the two neighbouring roads. Look, I'm all for free enterprise, but something isn't working when thriving small businesses are just brushed aside like this.



Clare Embleton has had to have metal plates inserted into her face after chewing gum for seven hours a day wore her jaw out.

Alex Ferguson seems to have got off lightly, doesn't he?



AMERICAN dentist Walter Palmer seems to have united the world in disgust over his cowardly slaughter of Cecil, the much-loved lion on Zimbabwe.

Just as well no other barbaric brutality goes on in that country, isn't it?



Meet the boss — Dudley Zoo's Derek Grove, of Stourbridge



Cerys, Sam, Derek, David and Lynne Grove all worked at the zoo



At the controls — David Grove driving the zoo train in 2000

Running the zoo is a family affair for boss

Dudley Zoological Gardens are practically a family business for the attraction's new director, CLARE BUTLER reports

HE has taken over the running of one of the Black Country's most popular attractions at a crucial point in its history.

And Dudley Zoo's new director Derek Grove says he wants to keep up the rapid pace of change at the site, which has seen visitor numbers rocket in recent years.

The zoo is undergoing a huge transformation with new buildings, a joint entrance with the neighbouring Black Country Living Museum and a new visitor centre.

Mr Grove took over from former chief executive Peter Sudlock, who stepped down from the role 'by mutual agreement' in April, following suspension amid an investigation into his conduct.

Mr Grove, aged 52, said: "Over the coming years it is important that the zoo continues to change at a similar pace like it has done."

Conservation

He wants to bring in more exhibitions and expand the range of animals – while also focusing on conservation.

Mr Grove originally started at the zoo in 1980 as a keeper, working his way through the ranks to head curator in his last role.

He said: "I always wanted to improve the zoo and the level of animal care."

"Animal care is always at the forefront of our decisions and we are working towards improving what we can do for them."

"It's about making it a more interesting visitor experience and bringing in more exhibitions too."

After a steep decline in visitor numbers during the 1980s and '90s, numbers have steadily been on the up growing at five per cent per year over the last ten years.

Mr Grove intends his past experience and passion for the animals will also allow him to



Surprise — The Grove family are joined by a photo-bombing lemur at Dudley Zoo

create a powerful force for wildlife conservation.

He said: "Pushing into more conservation is all within our zoo ethos, we want to develop every possible aspect. One of my favourite times spent here over the years has been working alongside the elephants – which I did for 18 years."

"I went over to France with them in 2003 to a elephant safari park and that was one of the last times I then worked with the animals before becoming curator."

"I stayed with them for a few weeks to help them acclimatise and to introduce them to their new carers."

"Being in a senior position has allowed me to be able to bring about change and most importantly change for the animals."

But his new position as director will also continue to add to the Grove family links at

the zoo – his wife, two children and father have also worked there over the past 35 years, making it a real family affair.

Mr Grove said: "I started as a trainee keeper in 1980. Before that I was a heating engineer. I actually came here to do a heating job in the hippo house and I stood and watched some keepers breaking ice on the moat."

"I thought 'I would like to do that' but it probably was a bit of a shock when on an ice cold morning you find yourself really doing it – maybe it wasn't as fun as it looked then."

"I've always loved my job and the animals and I have been lucky to be able to play a vital part in their wellbeing over the years."

Growing up with their father at the zoo, Mr Grove's two children, Cerys and Sam, were more than likely to follow in his footsteps.

Cerys, now 25, started working in a seasonal job at the zoo in 2006 after leaving school.

Not before long she was signed up as a student zoo keeper but has since left to pursue other ventures including owning her own pub in Swindon.

However, Sam, aged 22, has continued to work at the zoo, recently being promoted to senior keeper. He said he could even see his own children working at the zoo in the future.

He said: "When I was at school everyone loved the fact dad worked at the zoo. It was something different."

"I started working here in 2009. I left college as I felt it wasn't really for me as they encourage you to go down a normal route of getting a trade."

"I work with the primates, apes and reptiles, but I've got to say my favourite animal would be the baby orangutan Sprout."

Stepmother Lynne also works at the zoo but in a less animal-oriented role.

Mrs Grove, 57, was promoted to office manager this year, after previously working as PA to the chief executive at the zoo since 2000.

Santa

She insisted that despite loving the animals she would not be inclined to follow family foot-steps and work with them.

Lastly, David Grove, Derek's father, completes the Dudley Zoo famous five.

Mr Grove, 79, only started work at the zoo after finishing his previous job at 61.

He said: "My wife said I didn't need a job but I was looking for something to do again and the role as train driver for one day a week came up at the zoo."

After working on the train, I was approached to work as Santa too, so I had some varied roles. I was a bit of a handyman. I would come in a couple of days a week and eventually knocked it down to a couple of times a month, before finishing fully a couple of years ago."

The Groves, who are from Stourbridge, say that as well as working together they still remain a close knit family, meeting up on weekends.

Dudley Zoological Gardens, on Castle Hill, opened in 1937 and covers an area of approximately 40 acres, and is home to more than 1,300 animals. It is open from 10am with last admission at 4pm and features a range of activities through the summer season.

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HAVING worked in this country for well over 40 years, in continuous employment, a skilled worker, I would like to thank David Cameron and the Conservative Party for putting me out of work.

They decided in their infinite wisdom to cut funding to the council, thus putting me out of a job. Now at the age of 54 and applying for thousands of jobs over three years, after 'doing the right thing', I am now living with my wife on virtually fresh air. We eat mainly bread, beans and potatoes, and other items we beg off relatives.

While Dave is sipping Champagne

Identity lost in the name of progress

FOLLOWING the recent calls to celebrate Staffordshire Day next year, I wish I could, if only the county had not been dismembered in 1966.

I was born in Bilston in the county of Staffordshire, on March 10, 1939. The Black Country was the power house of South Staffordshire.

All the Black Country towns of South Staffs could have had a real celebration with North Staffs, except Dudley which at that time was in the county of Worcestershire. It was an island in Staffordshire.

Let's not forget Staffordshire was the centre of the 'Kingdom of Mercia' in the seventh century.

This is what happens when the people of the country vote in people to look after you. They destroy your identity for their own selfish ends. They call it progress. Progress for whom? Not the people.

B LAWLEY
Bilston

C HOWELLS
Wordsley

I even pay council tax out of our £50 off the state. Last winter we nearly died of hypothermia due to not having money to keep warm. I have even applied for sweeping up and toilet cleaning jobs. But unfortunately I was informed I did not have enough experience in this field.

So from once being an assistant furniture manager at Woolworths and having a trade, which makes no difference now, and as my age is a barrier, I would like to ask our MPs: where are the 'jobs for everyone'?

C LLOYD
Dudley

and feasting on pheasant, I would like to ask him to come and live like us for a month. Preferably in the winter, so he can help scrape the ice off the windows of our un-insulated home.

I have worked all my life, have good references, and all I want to do is put food on the table.

If I pass away this winter from hypothermia I have instructed my family to inscribe on my gravestone 'Passed away due to Conservative cuts' and I am an ex-Conservative voter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Let them swim to Cloud Cuckoo Land

I feel that one of the worst engineering projects in Britain was the building of the Channel Tunnel. I think this country was far better when we were an island and people would have had to swim to get here.

I would like to ask George Osborne what sense does it make to make so many people redundant, when they will draw unemployment pay, instead of paying tax?

This includes police, firefighters, who are necessary, when 800 peers who are mainly redundant politicians can claim £150 to £300 per day just for going to the House of Lords. Are they necessary?

Why are we sending £250 billion to India over the next four years, apart from the millions we have already sent, and their finance minister says they don't need the 'peanut' money from Britain, when they have spent £250m to send a rocket to the moon. They also apparently spent millions of pounds to send aid to Nepal after their earthquake.

Surely this money would be better used to pay off some of our debts. Or used for the NHS.

We seem to be using the economics of 'Cloud Cuckoo Land'.

Anti-skid measures worn out

IF MEMBERS of the public make a purchase, or have work done on their property, they expect it to last.

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What about public authorities?

Don't they too have the same rights?

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The majority of them have now worn away, so can the authorities claim to have them re-done?

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An Express & Star promotional film dating back to 1961



An E&S reader stops to take in the news in 1961



Archive footage showing West Bromwich Albion in action



A young Bobby Robson interviewed on camera



Cannock Wood Colliery closes down in 1973

Film footage of old brings region to life

MEMORY LANE

By David Coggrave

A COLLECTION of historic films released online offers a fascinating insight into the Black Country's heritage.

The project reveals hidden histories and forgotten stories of people and places from the region.

Britain on Film has been launched by the British Film Institute and aims to share films from the past to a new contemporary audience.

The vintage videos were all held in a regional collection – but have been released to share them with a wider audience.

Some of the highlights from the Black Country films include a 1961 promotional film about the Express & Star and a 1963 portrait of West Bromwich Albion, with Bobby Robson being interviewed.

There is also a video from Wolverhampton in 1970s which documents the upheaval in the city as Georgian and Victorian shops

made way for flats. The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) has supported the BFI and Britain on Film in the project.

Phil Leach, senior curator at MACE, said: "It's great to be able to preserve these old videos but we also need to be getting things out there for the public to see."

"If you put something online people can watch it again and again, any time. This is a really good way of getting films out there."

Mr Leach said one of his highlights from the Black Country was an 80-year-old film of King George V's Silver Jubilee, which saw a pageant put on at Molineux. There is also a 1904 film showing Wolves playing away at Preston.

The online BFI Player gives everybody in the UK free access to thousands of film and TV titles.

By 2017 10,000 film and TV titles from 1895 to the present day will be digitised.

Newsreels, advertisements, home movies, forgotten TV shows, and films by government departments all offer surprising insights into British life in the 20th century. BFI head curator Robin Baker said: "For 120 years cameras have captured almost every aspect of life in the UK on film, but too often these have been inaccessible to all but the most determined researchers."

"Britain on Film is transforming access to films from the UK's archives and making them available, no matter where you live."

Heather Stewart, BFI creative director, said: "It's vital the UK's film and TV archives – Britain's national collection – can be enjoyed by everyone."

"We have now created a way for the British public to discover and engage with their heritage like never before."



The final Civic Sunday parade in Bilston in 1965



View looking up Victoria Street, Wolverhampton in the 1930s

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Poppies inspire art show at glass centre



Enamel artist Carol Griffin is pictured with some of her work on show at The Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge

A POPPY-INSPIRED collection of artwork has gone on display at The Ruskin Glass Centre to mark Amblecote's first In Bloom competition entry.

Artists from the Wollaston Road glass centre produced pieces relating to the competition's poppy theme, ranging from textile to enamel designs.

Amblecote in Bloom was the idea of Councillor Christine Perks.

Carole Griffin, chairman of the Ruskin Craft Association who designed an enamel piece for the exhibition, said: "Our ideas came from Christine's initiative with this being the first Am-

blecote In Bloom competition entry. The symbol and theme of the competition is a poppy, so our artists at the glass centre each decided to do a piece.

"There were 10 glass pieces but we also had wood, enamel, soap and textile designs as well as silver and resin jewellery and artwork cards.

"They were all put in a display cabinet and looked really impressive.

"We had three pieces given to us by artists from the Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford too."

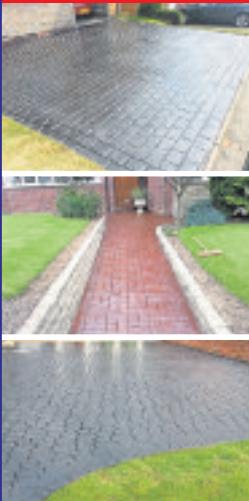
Creative woodwork artist Jamie Hubbard carved a poppy out of wood. The Natural Soapworks produced

poppy in soap and glass artist Vic Bamforth designed a chunky glass globe entitled 'Field of poppies'.

Mr Bamforth combines his painting and glass-blowing skills to create vibrantly colourful, humorous, one-off glass art pieces which are exhibited and collected internationally. His work is also held in international public collections including Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

Following a £1.4 million refurbishment, The Ruskin Glass Centre is home to a wide array of glass crafts and complementary trade. The display is at the museum until August 22.

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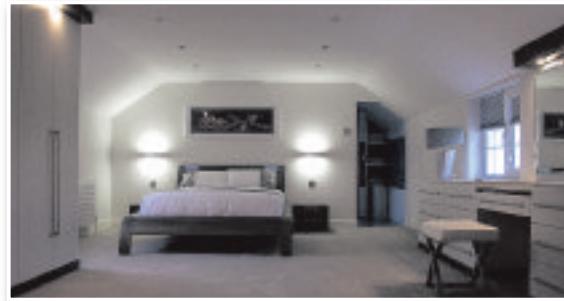
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No strings fun enjoyed at race day

West Mids Federation

The West Midlands Federation held their annual quiz night at Stourbridge Football Club on June 1.

There were 12 teams each consisting of four guild members per table taking part. The quizmaster was Russ Johnson.

Jean Williams was given a vote of thanks on behalf of members by chairman Margaret Tew for organising the event. Sedgley (E) Guild came first, followed by Kingswinford and Wollaston and Oldswinford in joint third. Prizes were awarded to Sedgley and Kingswinford.

On June 10 Federation committee member Sandra Matchett attended as a delegate to the National AGM at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. She proudly carried the Federation Banner. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal attended.

The next event was a day at the races on June 24. This consisted of five jockeys per race frantically winding string around a wooden hand held post in order to pull the wooden horses along the floor. If the horse fell it was disqualified. Bookie Ray 'honest' Hartshorne did an excellent job and most members had winners.

Everyone enjoyed a fish and chip lunch.

The afternoon continued with the winners of the four races competing in a grand final, won by Elaine Rowley (Hawne TG) who was awarded a pot plant.

There was a prize for the prettiest hat and the quirkiest, presented by Sheila Baker, an invited guest from the Executive Council.



The large gathering taking part in the guided historical walk of the town

Amblecote History Society

the history of Stourbridge. Dr Collins explained the boundary between Amblecote and Stourbridge and was incessant in pointing out building details, and reflecting on various retail outlets of yesteryear, while describing the many buildings of interest and the stories they have held. The tour ended on High Street near Bordeaux House.

The next indoor meeting is on Wednesday September 9 at 7.30pm in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Centre with John Sparry talking about being a Time Traveller.

The humour of retirement

JULY'S meeting began with a talk on Humour in Retirement by David Berry.

He provided an hour of laughter and pathos. He likened retirees as recycled teenagers – unable to get up in the mornings and doing very little in the day.

Members were informed that they needed to learn about biological changes in

servations, the ladies were regaled with many a joke or poem.

MyTime meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The next one is on August 26 when Penny Wheat will talk about writing to prisoners.

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Lots of gnomes at home in arboretum



Organiser Davy Turner of Kingswinford blends in with the gnomes hidden among the foliage at Bodenham Arboretum

CHEEKY-FACED gnomes have returned to Bodenham Arboretum near Kidderminster and they have increased in number.

Hidden among the 3,000 trees and shrubs are 30 gnomes for people to discover, including Woodland Wilf, Jacko and a lady gnome called Lady Jodi.

The BodenGnomes event will run through the summer and there will be gnomes and other items featuring their cheeky faces on sale.

Davy Turner, aged 60, from Kingswinford, who is the organiser and founder of the Friends of the BodenGnomes group, said: "We started this

four years ago to raise funds for the Children in Need Appeal.

"I was among more than 400 people who dressed up as a gnome to take part in an event at Malvern to gain entry to the Guinness Book of Records and I suggested to the owners of the Arboretum that we could start off a fun event to raise further funds."

Donations

"Now the event is in its fourth year and we will again be hoping for donations towards the Children in Need Appeal. This year we have colouring charts for the children and they will

be able to search for 30 gnomes. Some have letters attached so that they make up a word. This year we also have a big cut-out so that people can take their own pictures and pretend to be a BodenGnome."

"We are hoping to raise more than ever and hope that visitors to the Arboretum will have fun trying to find the hidden gnomes. We have new gnomes for children to find including an Irish Leprechaun."

Davy said that visitors would be issued with a map and clues — and could be in with a chance of winning a trophy and a prize.

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Restaurant could bring 80 jobs if proposals approved

THE developer behind plans for a restaurant, creating 80 jobs, at Oldbury's Birchley Island says work could begin next year if plans are approved.

St Modwen has unveiled multi-million pound proposals for a restaurant operated by national chain Greene King.

The site, between the island and the slip road for Junction 2 of the M5, has previously been earmarked for a hotel and casino but both schemes never got off the ground.

The restaurant would be part of Greene King's Farmhouse Inn brand and create 80 full-time and part-time jobs.

If planning permission is granted by Sandwell Council, construction will get under way in 2016.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor at St. Modwen, said: "A new restaurant will be a great addition to the current offer at Birchley Island, and will cater for motorists, shoppers and workers in the area."

Richard Lewis, managing director for Farmhouse Inns, said: "We are excited to be bringing forward plans for a family-friendly Farmhouse Inn on Birchley Island."

"Usually popular with business users and families, Farmhouse Inns are good value restaurants known for daily carveries, home-made cakes, cask ales and children's activity play areas."

"As well as creating new local jobs, the restaurant would provide customers with a greater choice of where to dine, so we hope that these plans will be warmly welcomed by the community."

The scheme also includes a car park with 95 spaces. The 13,811 sq ft restaurant will have two entrances to accommodate those visiting to dine and those using only the bar. The building will have a central patio for outdoor dining, which will be enclosed by a landscaped area with high shrubs, separating it from the car park.

ONE in four drivers stopped by police during a summer blitz were driving over the legal alcohol limit.

Throughout June, West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) ran roadside checkpoints and patrolled in unmarked vehicles to catch offenders, as well as acting on tip-offs.

In total 211 people were arrested, of which 129 have been charged, and 30 are on bail pending results of blood samples.

Officers from the CMPG carried out 259 breath tests during the month, resulting in 69 drink-drive arrests, including seven who'd been involved in collisions.

CMPG Chief Inspector Jed White said: "More than a quarter of all the motorists my officers stopped were found over the legal alcohol limit, it shows we're targeting the right people and not unfairly inconveniencing innocent motorists."

Phone box millionaire is guest at ball

A BLACK Country charity is throwing a ball to mark 140 years of support for people with sight loss.

Beacon is hosting the glamorous black tie event on October 9 at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, with guest speaker Dr Stephen Fear, the 'phone box millionaire'.

He started his commercial oven cleaning company aged 15, achieving his first major business deal using a now-famous red telephone box on the council estate in Bristol where he grew up.

Beacon's chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "We are thrilled to welcome a speaker of Stephen Fear's calibre to our event and look forward to hearing about his unique approach to social enterprise. This is particularly relevant to our organisation as we seek innovative ways to raise the vital funding needed to deliver life-changing services to people coping with sight loss across our region."

Kelly Vickers, Beacon's fundraising and event officer, said: "The 140th anniversary of the charity is such as important milestone that we wanted a special event to mark the occasion. Our 'Hollywood Ball' will be a glittering evening."

Tickets cost £30 per person, including a three-course meal and welcome drink, and can be purchased from www.beaconvision.org

Nature reserve blaze is suspected arson

ARSONISTS are believed to be responsible for a large grass fire which took hold at a nature reserve in the Black Country.

Firefighters from Dudley were called to Sheepwash Local Nature Reserve near Tipton last week.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman, Matthew Smith, said there were three areas of grassland on fire across an area of approximately 500 square metres.

£1.8m animal hospital is opened



Joanne Malin and her dog Maisy at the opening of the PDSA hospital in Oldbury

TV presenter Joanne Malin and her four-legged pooch Maisy helped to unveil a new £1.8 million PDSA Pet Hospital in Oldbury.

The veterinary centre on St Matthew's Road has replaced the charity's old site on Hagley Road West, Quinton.

The plush hospital has a critical care ward, operating theatre and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

PDSA's chairman, John Smith, said the facilities will equip vets with all they need to treat animals in need.

He said: "It is wonderful to be able to open practices that offer the latest equipment to enable us to provide the best possible care for lots of animals."

"Each practice we build we try to make better. This one has got a lot of features in that will make it easier for vets and safer for the animals."

"We are extremely thankful to our supporters as this would not have happened without them and their fundraising."

"All donations – big or small have been appreciated."

The building and equipment have been funded entirely by PDSA supporters and donations from the public.

It has been called The Marian and Christina Jones Centre of Surgical Excellence following generous donations to the building costs and operating theatre. The premises will also be used for training.

Mr Smith added: "We are fortunate to have excellent training facilities here too for vets of the future. Trainees will be able to look from behind glass partitions in the theatre."

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Network helping people in Kates Hill is facing closure

A STRUGGLING community centre is to close after more than 25 years with 30 staff set to lose their jobs.

Bosses at the St Thomas's Community Network in Kates Hill — which includes a nursery and youth club — say a lack of funding has forced their reluctant decision.

A campaign group has been set up on Facebook in a last-ditch effort to try to save the much-loved centre in Beechwood Road. It is due to close on September 30.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walthero, who is chairman of the board of trustees at the network, said: "The centre is a standalone charity and although we have received a grant from the council in the past that finished in 2010, it was cut. From then really we have been struggling. We have been fighting and scrambling around for the last

two years but it has now become unviable."

"The centre benefits hundreds of people and that is just the adult learning courses that we do. All that will stop."

"Dudley Council is being very supportive and we are working with them to see what services and jobs can be salvaged."

The network was set up 26 years ago. It provides training in English, ICT and computer art and employs a total of 30 full and part-time staff.

A second-hand furniture store also operates from the site. Its halls, two of which were refurbished last year, can also be hired.

Louis Treasure, who set up the Facebook group campaigning to save it, said: "It is such a shame it has come to this. It would be such a loss if it were to go under."



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walthero at threatened community centre St Thomas's Network

Community face losing hundreds of officers

HUNDREDS of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are set to lose their job as West Midlands Police axes up to 2,500 officers and civilian staff.

The move will be part of a major shake up of neighbourhood policing that is expected to signal an end of police involvement in community events such as fetes.

Around 2,000 officers, including the force's 605 PCSOs, who work on the programme have been warned they will no longer be shielded from the effects of the Government's budget cuts.

West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims said: "I do not think this is the end of the PCSO. It is a role that still has a lot to offer but there will be significantly fewer by 2020."

"I cannot be precise about the numbers because this matter is still under review but we are not talking about ten or 20 posts. It will be in the hundreds."

"This is certainly not what I would have wanted but we have already had to make £126m worth of cuts and face the prospect of saving a further £120m over the next five years."

Retreat

"We have got to work in different ways to meet our key responsibility of public protection."

"Neighbourhood policing has grown beyond what was originally intended. The PCSOs have been terrifically successful but we must now retreat to the core of police work and concentrate on areas such as domestic abuse and child exploitation."

West Midlands Police Federation deputy chairman Tom Cuddeford said: "The next few years are going to be very worrying for police officers and staff. We are going to lose some excellent PCSOs."

Booze thefts at store

SAINSBURY'S has stepped up security at its store in Brierley Hill following a spate of alcohol thefts.

Police have also increased patrols near the Withymoor store and the supermarket has increased the hours its own store security are on duty. Amblecote police neighbourhood team says there has been a significant increase in thefts from the store, mainly alcohol.

Council land bid is part of homes plan

THE site of an old hospital in Wordsley will be redeveloped with more than 100 homes.

Empty Ridge Hill Hospital, where several buildings have already been demolished, is set to be turned into a housing development some eight years after homes were first suggested.

Councillors in Wordsley have welcomed the proposal but say they have concerns about an increase in traffic.

Plans for homes to be built at the hospital site were first made back in 2007 but did not come to fruition. Now NHS Property Services is seeking to buy council land by the access road leading from Brierley Hill Road up to the former hospital site.

New footpaths would be created to provide safer crossings with new pedestrian and cycle routes to Auckland Road.

Officials are due to submit a revised planning application for up to 130 homes and NHS Property Services want to enter into an agreement to be able to buy the empty land once they have secured planning permission for the Ridge Hill transformation.

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600 not out at new Poundland store

POUNDLAND has opened its 600th store in Bilston – the town where the concept for the £1-for-everything chain was born.

The company's CEO Jim McCarthy cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the Church Road store, allowing the queueing shoppers to charge through the turquoise doors.

There was a party atmosphere as shoppers, who queued for more than a hour, were entertained by a DJ and the Honey Monster and a Walkers Crispy packet danced for the crowd's entertainment.

Vouchers worth £10 were offered to the first shoppers while walking billboards advertising the grand opening roamed the streets of Bilston.

Inside, the shelves were full, boasting a full array of Poundland stock from selfie-sticks and a back-to-school range to crisps and fizzy drinks.

Delighted

Mr McCarthy has been at the helm of the bargain retailer for nine years. He opened the chain's 500th store and has seen it break the billion pound barrier for sales.

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to get to 600 stores. It's absolutely appropriate that we've opened it in Bilston in the heart of the Midlands, it's where we started back in 1990."

"The customers are great, they love value, they appreciated Poundland and we love them to bits. I am absolutely delighted, it's wonderful."

Poundland originated as a market stall in Bilston before founders Keith and Steve Smith opened the chain's first shop in 1990. Mr McCarthy now wants to hit the 1,000 store mark.

"Independent researcher Javelin say that there are 1,400 stores that we could occupy in the UK but we say



Poundland CEO Jim McCarthy



Staff celebrate with Jim McCarthy



Shopper June Sambrooks, of Bilston, at the new Church Street store

1,000 as we like to under promise and over deliver whenever we can," he said.

Comparisons between Poundland and Woolworths are inevitable as the former replaced the latter as the UK's go-to bargain store. But Mr McCarthy played down the importance of being on course to surpass the 850 or so shops that Woolworths had open

at any one time in the UK. He said: "Woolworths I was very fond of of course, but we intend to stay around slightly longer."

"I think it's the customers who decide how many you have because if you're successful and they're buying products then you can keep opening stores and it's our attention to keep doing that."

RECORD entries and more visitors than ever added up to a blooming marvellous show for a Wolverhampton gardening club.

And no one was happier than Harry Livesey, aged 81, who picked up the Best In Show award just a few years after keen gardener son Phillip, 52, persuaded him to start an allotment.

Mr Livesey from Woodland Paddock, Penn, discovered late in life that he was blessed with green fingers as his eye-catching gladioli carried off the main prize at Penn and District Gardening Society's 76th annual show.

"I couldn't believe it and neither could my wife – she was convinced that somebody was having a joke when she saw my name on the winner's card," he confessed. "I regard myself as a very amateur gardener and am delighted to have won."

Admire

There were 460 entries for the available classes and around 200 came to admire the flowers, vegetables and other items at the Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road.

Another highlight was Eric Foulkes visiting from his home in Germany to present shield awarded in memory of his identically named grandfather to the highest points winner in the flower section.

This year the winner was Linda Hickman from Wall Heath.

Dennis Turner, aged 77 from Moss Grove, Kingswinford proved that he knows his onions by collecting the Banksian Gold Medal for most points in the vegetable section.

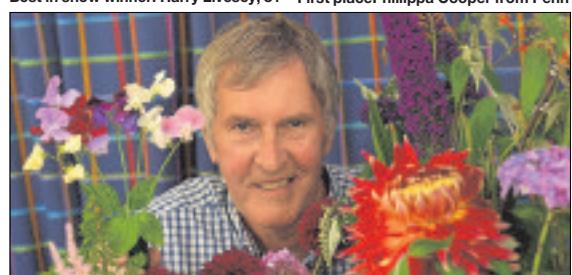
Carrots, shallots, cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce joined forces with the onions to ensure the regular winner notched up another triumph.



Best in show winner: Harry Livesey, 81



First place Philippa Cooper from Penn



John Cooper, secretary of Penn & District Gardening Society from Penn

for growing. And a record number of people came to see the show. It was a great success."

There was further reason for the family to celebrate when his wife Philippa scooped first prize for flower arrangements in a competition with the theme Welcome New Baby.

Her display celebrated the arrival of their new grandchild.

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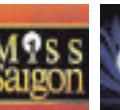
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Search is on for brownfield housing sites

A CONSULTATION has been launched to try to locate land for future development in Dudley.

Landowners and developers have been asked to put forward sites in the borough that could be developed for housing. Dudley Council is currently working on a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

This consultation gives people the chance to put forward sites which could become available in the next 15 years. The authority will prioritise brownfield sites (previously developed land) as they are usually located near services and transport routes.

Development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "Early engagement with landowners and developers will ensure that vacant and derelict sites that are suitable for housing are identified."

Details of sites can be emailed to localplan@dudley.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL by Thursday, September 10.

D-Day veterans are dying before getting medal from France

Fizzogs fly flag at Fringe



The Fizzogs will fly the Black Country flag at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

DANCING grannies sensation The Fizzogs will be flying the flag for the Black Country this week when they take part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Dudley comedy act's appearance comes hot on the heels of the group taking a leading role in this year's Black Country Festival.

And now the comedy act - who became an internet sensation with their dancing grannies routine - are heading north of the border as they appear for the first time in the Fringe, one of the world's biggest theatre festivals.

Their show, Fifty Shades of Fiz-

zog, runs from this Friday to August 13.

"We are going to represent the Black Country in Edinburgh," said member Sue Hawkins. "It's something we have wanted to do for years and comes on the back of our dancing grannies video going viral on social media. There will be singing, dancing and lots of laughs."

The group have been recognised for their work for the Black Country Festival by Dudley Mayor Councillor Steve Walther, who presented the group with an engraved glass tankard and a framed certificate at a civic reception.

MORE than a dozen D-Day veterans from across the Black Country and Staffordshire, who were promised France's highest military award for bravery, have died without receiving the medal.

Last year, the French Government announced it would give the Legion d'Honneur to all surviving Normandy veterans.

Only a fraction of the 3,000 servicemen who applied for medals have received them. Campaigners say the delay has meant veterans have died before they had chance to receive the medals. The veterans have an average age of 95 and are dying at a rate of 10 a week.

The medal recognises heroism displayed by surviving veterans of the Normandy landings and campaigns to liberate France in 1944. It is not awarded posthumously.

Campaigner Joy Widdowson said 11 veterans from Wolverhampton and Staffordshire had died since French President Francois Hollande announced the medals would be awarded on June 6 last year.

Funerals

She said: "I've been to 11 funerals since then. This has taken far too long. The French Government made a promise, but a lot of veterans are questioning whether they will be around to receive the award. It is causing a great deal of distress. This needs to be sorted out as a matter of urgency."

Another campaigner, Hilary Brown, holds a database of veterans from the Black Country who are eligible to receive the medal.

"If I ring one of them and they don't answer the phone I always fear the worst," said Mrs Brown, aged 61, of Kingswinford.

"Some of these men, who thoroughly deserve to have their heroism recognised, won't live to receive the award."

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey says he has written to the Ministry of Defence requesting they urge the French Government to 'act quickly'.

The distribution of the medals has been blighted by red tape from day one. Initially the Ministry of Defence said it was short of manpower to process the applications.

One of the details were sent over to France they had to be translated, causing further delays. The French Embassy in London says the applications are now being prioritised on age and health grounds.

Takeaway boss faces £4k court bill over hygiene

THE owner of a Chinese restaurant in Dudley has paid out more than £4,000 after admitting hygiene breaches.

Wei Keung Chiu, who runs Ken's takeaway in Wolverhampton Street, pleaded guilty to nine offences under the food hygiene regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court on July 30.

Environmental health officers from Dudley Council inspected the takeaway premises in 2014 and found that the premises and equipment were dirty and not maintained in good condition. They also found staff had not been provided with

hand drying facilities, pest control procedures were inadequate and food safety hazards had not been assessed.

The takeaway received a hygiene rating of one out of five.

Magistrates imposed a fine of £2,025 and costs of £2,316.80 plus a victim surcharge of £120.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said: "Nearly half of all food outlets in the borough are achieving the top hygiene rating of five and the vast majority achieve a satisfactory rating of three or more."

U-turn is urged over closure of a village's bank

A COUNCILLOR is urging Barclays to re-think its plans to close branch in Lower Gornal after more than 270 people backed a petition.

The decision by Barclays to shut its premises in Zoar Street has angered many in the community.

Councillor Dave Brannwood, who organised the petition, said if the closure goes ahead customers would have a four-mile round trip to the next nearest branch, which is in Sedgley.

He is urging bosses at Barclays to re-consider. He said: "This petition just goes to show how many local people rely on this branch and will find it difficult to travel to another."

"I have been working hard with traders and residents to make sure the village is as good as it can be and I really don't want to see the bank standing empty."

"We led a successful campaign to save the Post Office on the Straits and I don't see why the same can't be done here."

He added: "Gornal has a bright future so I will be writing to the Chairman of Barclays Bank asking him to think again and I would encourage others to do the same."

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Kandy, formerly isolated by dense jungle, was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings, and today custodian of Sinhalese culture. Here visit the fascinating Temple of the Tooth, which is said to hold Buddha's tooth, and is Buddhism's most sacred shrine on the island.

Also visit the cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site, showcasing Sri Lanka's extraordinary artistic heritage. The caves are completely covered by perfectly preserved frescoes and shrines, with hundreds of gold-coloured statues to admire.

There is also an included visit to the stunning Royal Botanical Gardens, planted over 150 years and covering a huge 150 acres, with the gardens holding thousands of plant species.

Enjoy a stay in the hill-station of Nuwara Eliya, a premier tea growing area. At nearly 7,000 feet above sea level, it is called 'Little England' due to its spring-like climate, parks and golf course.

Also on the itinerary is a two-night stay in the south of Sri Lanka, close to the Yala National Park, famed for its high concentration of leopards. Here enjoy an exciting safari, where visitors can spot many.

For many, the highlight of the trip will be an included visit to Sigiriya, the 'Lion Rock', a 600ft granite tower with sheer cliffs on all sides crowned by the remains of a 1,500 year old royal palace.

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Veteran rocker not going to fade away

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

VETERAN rocker Neil Young is opting to burn rather than fade away and is full of righteous rage and indignation on his 36th album *The Monsanto Years*.

Global corporations, particularly the one in the title, come in for fierce condemnation over their impact on farmers and the planet in a series of songs linked by his ecological concerns.

In LA band Promise of the Real, led by Willie Nelson's sons Lukas and Micah, he has got a backing band with the heft to make a blistering riffing cacophony to match his ire, on a par with his mighty backing band of yesteryear Crazy Horse.

Some songs suffer because the message has come before the music, with lyrics squeezed in to make his point, and slip into slogans — 'Too big to fail, too rich for jail' — on Big Box. But it is exhilarating to hear Young sounding so focussed and furious.

The stomping Workin' Man is a highlight, as is People Want to Hear About Love, on which he states his case for protest. Meanwhile, Wolf Moon adds another lunar-themed soothng ballad in the style of his classic Harvest Moon.

The album is available with a 76-minute DVD containing in-studio performances and behind the scenes footage from the making of the album.

Tame Impala, AKA Aussie psych pop sensation Kevin Parker, largely substanced were sampled as the finger-in-the-ear folk scene took on psychedelic and world music influences, as the singer-songwriter scene was blooming.

The songs still have Tame Impala hallmarks, such as wistful melancholy, sudden changes of gear and phasing, but Parker brings in elements of fried funk, a few expletives and synth pop



Exhilarating to hear Neil Young so focussed and furious on *The Monsanto Years*

akin to classic OMD or, more contemporary, Daft Punk.

Parker's vocals are to the fore, often delivered as a sweet falsetto but Currents has bitter elements befitting a break-up album. He also displays a more assured commercial touch, with Cause I'm A Man being one of the best pop tracks of the year, the best record Justin Timberlake should have made.

A treasure trove for those interested in the beginnings of UK folk-rock, the Grapefruit label's three CD set *Dust On The Nettles* (63 tracks clocking in at just under four hours) is, as its subtitle says, *A Journey through the British Underground Folk Scene 1967-72*.

These were exciting times when the hippy scene overlapped with the folk clubs and festivals. Maybe potent substances were sampled as the finger-in-the-ear folk scene took on psychedelic and world music influences, as the singer-songwriter scene was blooming.

There are some familiar names here, including Fairport Convention, Joan Armatrading, The Pentangle, recently rediscovered Vashti Bunyan and Marc Bolan's Tyrannosaurus Rex in pre-glam

rock days. But the joy comes in discovering some choice rarities, several never released before.

Serious seekers for obscure rock 'n' roll and Francophile music fans will find lots of Gallic delights on Various Artists album *Vive Le Rock 'n' Roll: The Unruly World of French Rock 'n' Roll 1956 to 1962*. Put together by RPM International, a label dedicated to seeking out rare and iconic non-Anglo music, this 22-track set has lots of treats.

Highlights include Twist A Saint-Tropez and Le Jour J by Les Chats Sauvages, Baby Let's Play House and Sweet Little Sixteen by adopted English-American Vince Taylor and his Play Boys, garage rocker Oh Les Filles! by Les Pingouins, the bonkers Gong-Gong by Danyel Gerard, and the accordion-propelled Rock Rock by Charles Verstraete. The 1956 track Rock and Roll Mops by Henry Cording and his Original Rock and Roll Boys, co-written by Michel Legrand, lays claim to being France's first rock record. A minus point is that the greatest of all French rockers, Johnny Hallyday, is represented by two poor quality recordings.

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Tribute made to voluntary worker

A POPULAR voluntary worker has lost her battle against cancer. Valerie Clarke, 76, of Jenks Avenue, Kinver, died on July 18.

Mrs Clarke started out as a voluntary junior youth club leader at Grainger's Lane Methodist Church in Cradley Heath. Later she became a Cub Scout leader and president of Kinver Evening Women's Institute. She was also a volunteer for the Mary Stevens Hospice charity shop and at the National Trust's Kinver Rock Houses.

She leaves husband Bob, two children and four grandchildren. Mr Clarke paid tribute to his wife of 55 years, saying: "She was a wonderful wife and extremely popular person who was loved by everyone."

Her funeral took place at Kinver Parish Church last week, followed by a cremation at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Man and dogs are rescued from blaze destroying home

A MAN and four dogs had to be rescued from a house in Dudley after a ferocious blaze.

The fire ravaged the back of the terraced home in Tiled House Lane, Pensnett.

The man who lives in the house and his pets were rescued by firefighters and all treated for smoke inhalation.

The back of the property was blackened by the flames and the property appeared gutted.

Next-door neighbour Lisa Barnbrook's house was also affected, with her gutter crumpling in the flames and a bedroom window being charred.

Self-employed gardener Mrs Barnbrook, aged 42, said: "I heard a bang and a crack but thought it was something in my back garden. Then I looked out and saw the fire, ran down the stairs and phoned the fire brigade.

"All I could see was flames licking up at my windows."

Frightening

"It was very frightening and I think we were minutes away from the fire catching our house."

"We could've easily lost the back bedroom. At the time you deal with it but afterwards you

sit and think and realise how close you could've been."

Another neighbour, who did not want to be named, said the flames were higher than the rows of houses in the street. She said: "I heard crackling and banging and it sounded like something was crashing down on the street. When I got downstairs I could see the flames reflected in the windows of the houses opposite. You could see how high the flames were, they were right over the house."

The fire service sent three engines to the incident, the cause of which was still unknown.

New currency exchange store

ONE of the UK's leading travel money retailers has opened a foreign exchange store in Merry Hill Shopping Centre, creating three jobs.

The No 1 Currency store aims to provide a host of currencies to shoppers going on holiday, while businesses will have a choice of over 50 different currencies to buy and sell with zero per cent commission and no minimum spend.

Merry Hill is the tenth No.1 Currency foreign exchange store to open in 2015, and the 49th store to open across the country, as part of the company's UK-wide expansion.

Simon Phillips, retail director for No.1 Currency, said: "We are delighted to be opening a store in Merry Hill."

OAP lives next door to a jungle



Pensioner Jack Washington, of Netherton, at the overgrown fence next to his garden

A RETIRED engineer says overgrown weeds from council land have caused damage to his garden fence.

Jack Washington, aged 83, has appealed to Dudley Council to treat the vegetation next to his home in Netherton.

The Darby End Road resident says he has been promised a resolution but has been frustrated at the lack of progress.

Mr Washington said he initially reported the problem to the council in June last year and has made repeated calls to the authority about the weeds.

Mr Washington said: "There's ivy and all sorts growing over the fence and that's come through and shattered the top part of it."

"They promised me that they would come and fix it. It's always on the list to be done but it's never been done."

"It has taken 13 months and it still isn't done."

Mr Washington, who has lived in the property since 1969, said: "It's just broken the fence down so I couldn't even get a new fence up now if I tried."

"It's a struggle to keep the garden going as it is, without this extra worry and stress on top. I like things to look nice."

Visit

He added: "There's no point even tending it any more."

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said council officers would visit the property to help Mr Washington.

Councillor Partridge added: "We appreciate this matter being raised with us and we will visit the property to see what help we can offer in this case."

Energy saver scheme offer to landlords

THOUSANDS of landlords in Dudley can apply for funding for energy saving measures to keep their properties up to standard.

Dudley Council's Winter Warmth Service is contacting thousands of landlords in the borough to see if they are eligible for free boilers, cavity wall and loft insulation. The campaign is aimed at also helping tenants on benefits.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "We are writing to the 5,500 landlords in the borough to see if they are entitled to funding for replacement boilers and also to encourage them to apply for free loft and cavity wall insulation. It is in their interest to take advantage of this scheme as it should help to reduce their maintenance costs as well as helping tenants to save money on their energy bills."

Find out more by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk and searching for winter warmth. Call (01384) 817086 or email winterwarmth@dudley.gov.uk

Church is art venue

AN annual exhibition of the Black Country Artists Group takes place in Hale-sown next month, and members of the public can go along.

The event, which will be held at the Hurst Green Methodist Church in Narrow Lane, runs from Thursday, August 13, to Saturday, August 15.

On Thursday and Friday the exhibition will be open between 10.30am and 5pm, and on Saturday from 10.30am until 4pm. Admission is free.

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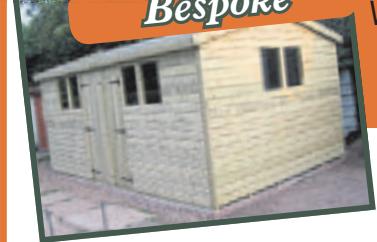
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Simples — meerkat selfie for art contest



Because I'm snappy - this mischievous meerkat gets to grips with an old camera at West Midlands Safari Park

ANIMALS at West Midlands Safari Park were given the old cameras to explore as part of a launch of a new competition.

The park is giving visitors the chance to capture the cutest animals.

The attraction is launching a search for Safari Photographer of the Year and Safari Artist of the Year.

It says it will display the best images from the park, and are especially looking for cute or funny images. There are also special categories for children.

Competition organiser and judge Caroline Richards said: "This is the first time that we have organised this

kind of competition. In the past we have encouraged visitors to send us their best photo entries for our annual calendar competition. Last year alone saw well more than 700 entries.

Creative

"There are some incredibly talented people around and we are sure that it gives us as much pleasure to judge as it gives people the pleasure to enter.

"We are in mid-summer, which seems to bring out the very best creative side in visitors.

"We feel sure that we will be happily inundated with entries for both com-

petitions during the next few months."

The competitions are free to enter.

All of the photo entries need to have been taken at West Midland Safari Park during 2014 or 2015 and art entries must be of an animal that is part of the wildlife collection at the park near Bewdley.

The works of art selected by the judges will also be included in an exhibition being held at West Midland Safari Park in the new year.

For further details visit the attractions website www.wmsp.co.uk where details about opening hours and events are also available.



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Amsterdam, Delft and the Girl with the Pearl Earring

Four days departing October 16



PRICE FROM £269

After completing her world tour, which attracted 2.2 million viewers, the 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' has returned to her newly refurbished home at the Mauritshuis Museum.

Painted by the master of light, Johannes Vermeer, around 1665, she is one of the stars of the Dutch Golden Age and continues to fascinate historians, novelists and filmmakers alike.

A visit is included to the Mauritshuis Museum in the Hague where some 800 unique works by Dutch and Flemish masters from the Golden Age can be seen. The star attraction is undoubtedly Vermeer's enigmatic 'Girl with a

Pearl Earring' and 'The Goldfinch' by Carel Fabritius a close second. This is followed by a visit to Delft, one of the prettiest cities in Holland and birthplace of Vermeer, for some free time.

A full day is spent in the Netherland's capital city, Amsterdam. Built on a network of canals this is a beautiful place to explore. Maybe take a stroll alongside the water, across quaint bridges and through the streets with their grand facades.

For a great way to see the city canal cruises are also available. Another highlight is The Rijksmuseum and there are also numerous diamond factories for which the city is famous. (Entrance fees payable locally).

INFO

- Return coach travel and Eurotunnel crossing
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day in Amsterdam
- Visit to Delft
- Visit to Mauritshuis Museum in the Hague
- Services of a tour driver and tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Pick of the week

Paddy Power Gold Cup

Two days departing November 14

PRICE FROM £99

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Best Mate enclosure
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Three days departing September 18

PRICE FROM £179

- Return coach travel and ferry crossing
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Yarmouth, Alum Bay, Godshill, Newport and Ryde
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
- Optional Carisbrooke Castle excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Saturday Night Theatre by rail

Two days departures most weekends

PRICE FROM £159.95

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the "from" price and price bands vary for each show

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Poldark's Cornwall

Four days departing October 2

PRICE FROM £259

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Poldark mine for a tour
- Visit to the Smugglers Museum
- Coach journey along the Cornish coast
- Visits to Padstow, Charlestown and Mullion
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

HRH The Prince of Wales's Gardens at Highgrove

Two days departing October 4

PRICE FROM £149

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Tour of the gardens at Highgrove
- Tour of the Cotswolds with visits to Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London

Two days departing October 24

PRICE FROM £115

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to the Elvis exhibition at the O2
- Free time in central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Yorkshire Cruise and Steam

Three days departing October 9

PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Holmfirth, Skipton, Grassington and Haworth
- Cruise on the Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway
- Coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Weekend by rail

Two days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £129.95

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Three-day option also offered from £189.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

Santander and Green Spain

Six days various departure dates 2016

PRICE FROM £429

- Return flights
- Five nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tour of Santander
- Excursion taking in the Picos de Europa national park
- Two optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates 2015/16

PRICE FROM £279

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
 - Return rail connection to London
 - Return coach transfers overseas
 - Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
 - Guided walking tour of Bruges
 - Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
 - Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Certain entrance fees payable locally

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

Paris and the Moulin Rouge

Four days departing October 16

PRICE FROM £389

- Return coach travel and Eurotunnel crossing
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Moulin Rouge to see the show with a half bottle of champagne, wine or a non-alcoholic drink
- Sightseeing tour of Paris by coach
- Evening meal in a Parisian restaurant
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



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fast theticket

Young talent

National Youth Orchestra
Page 23



NATIVE MONSTER

Entertainment Unleashed



Freak Show

Carnival of the Bizarre
See Page 23

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Teenage Bottlerocket



Thursday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, W'ton

Teenage Bottlerocket are a punk rock band formed in Wyoming in the United States in 2001. The band was formed by twin brothers Ray and Brandon Carlisle.

Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Project Soundlounge



Fri-Sun
Various events

Project Soundlounge is the only youth led music festival this year in Birmingham. Venues across the city centre are involved. It's live, it's fresh, it's a bassy, it's free. Visit www.thsh.org.uk

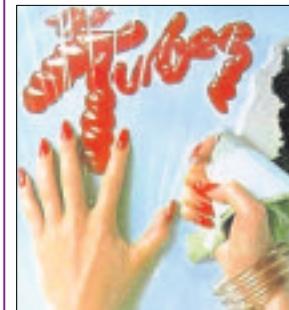
Hamlet



Thursday - Aug 14
Wightwick Manor, W'ton

On Thursday and Friday, August 14 join the Prince of Denmark as he battles his inner demons and seeks to avenge his late father - all with a Folksy twist! Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Tubes



Thursday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilton

American punks The Tubes will be celebrating the 40-year anniversary since the release of their debut album and big hit single White Punks On Dope. Visit www.therobin.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Project Soundlounge Festival

Fri - Sun, various events/times
Town Hall, Birmingham plus other venues

Call 0121 780 3333

Don Broco

Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £15
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.

Call 0121 643 0428

The Destroyers

Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am, £10
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.

Call 0844 870 0000

Dr Feelgood

Thu at 9pm, £5
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.

Call 0121 200 3030

The Weekend Anthems

Sat at 7.30pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.

Call 01384 397177

Counteract Presents

Sat - Sun at 5pm - 3am, £5 - £7
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.

Call 0844 870 0000

A Wilhelm Scream

Thu at 6pm, £12
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.

Call 0121 622 8250

The Avengers

Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £11
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.

Call 0121 643 0428

Underground Ocean

Sat at 6.30pm, £12
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.

Call 0121 622 8250

Teenage Bottlerocket

Thu at 7pm, £9
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.

Call 0870 320 7000

Gallus Cooper (Alice Cooper Tribute) + Scorpions (Scorpions tribute)

Friday, 8pm, £12/£14
Robin 2, Bilton
WV14 7LJ

Call 01902 401211

U2-2 presents The Joshua Tour 87-88

Sat, 8pm, £10/£12
Robin 2, Bilton
WV14 7LJ

Call 01902 401211

Monsters of Rock featuring Sabbathage (Black Sabbath)

Sun, 7.30pm, £5/£7
Robin 2, Bilton
WV14 7LJ

Call 01902 401211

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The Wizard Of Oz

Thurs, 7.30pm, £22.50/£25
Robin 2, Bilton
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Hamlet

Thu at 6.30pm - 9.30pm, £8 - £35
Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE.
Call 01902 760100

The Bodyguard

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Gospel Central

Wed - Thu at 6pm, Free
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls Square, Birmingham, B31QU.

Call 0121 200 3030

Sir Mark Elder And The National Youth Orchestra Of Great Britain

Fri at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £25
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Sandy Denny Songbook

Sun at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £8
Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.

Call 0121 443 4725

Irish Session

Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.

Call 01384 374410

Common Folk: Singers' Night

Thu at 8.30pm, Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
Call 01922 682018

Brewdog Acoustic Club

Thu at 8pm, Brewdog Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewdog, ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights

Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

Propaganda

Fri - Sat at 10.30pm - 3.30am, £3
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Get On It

Thu at 12am, £2 - £7
Gatecrasher Birmingham, B15 1DA. Call 0121 633 1520

ART GALLERIES

Birmingham's People and Change in the Inner-City

Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.

Call 0121 303 1966

Artist Development West Midlands

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10am - 5pm, Free
Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, TF11 8UP.
Call 01902 376200

Digital Music Making: Workshop (Ages 6-11)

Fri at 10am - 3pm, £10.50
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Show In A Week Musical Theatre Workshops (Ages 6-11)

Thu at 10am - 3pm, £10.50
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Young musicians show their mettle



The Nation Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in action before they tackle Mahler at Birmingham Symphony Hall

THE National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain returns to Birmingham for its annual concert as part of its most ambitious summer to date.

Under the baton of Sir Mark Elder, of the Halle Orchestra, the teenagers perform Mahler's epic Symphony No 9 alongside the world premiere performances of Re-greening by Tansy Davies, written especially for NYOGB, at the city's Symphony Hall tomorrow evening (Friday).

The orchestra's young composers will be presenting a free performance of some of their works at the Symphony Hall foyer at 6pm, before the 7.30pm concert. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Following a two-week residency in Birmingham, the orchestra travels to Aldeburgh, the BBC Proms and Berlin. NYOGB's 14 to 19-year-old members are drawn from across the UK and this year nine of the 163 talented

teenagers hail from the West Midlands. Among them are double bassists Harry Atkinson (Birmingham) and Patrick Phillip (Bridgnorth), violinists Philip Edwards (Stafford) and Madeleine Dawson (B'ham), cellists Joshua Mountford (B'north) and Dominic Marten (B'ham).

Activities in Birmingham included ensembles taking music to the streets and workshops at the University of Birmingham.

Prepare to be shocked and amazed

Miss is in a bottle...

FREAKS and feathers will surround you at the Carnival of the Bizarre, prepare to be shocked and amazed by a blend of weird variety acts and burlesque from the same people who stunned audiences — and the Britain's Got Talent judges — with notorious touring show The Circus of Horrors.

At Bilston's Robin 2 venue tonight (Thursday) the audience will get close up and personal with some truly bizarre, and sometimes horrifying, performers.

Led by Circus of Horrors undead Ringmaster Doktor Haze, the shows cast of freaky characters will include Captain Dan, the demon dwarf; The Mongolian Laughing Boy; the Human Pincushion; the sword swallowing Hannibal Helmurto.

The circus element comes with performers including the girl in the bottle and Anastasia IV the blade walker, fire whirlwind acrobatics from the Voodoo Warriors and a bevy of burlesque beauties. Plus a multitude of shocks and surprises from the most bizarre acts around.

Advance tickets cost £15 or £16 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or see www.therobin.co.uk website.

Other gigs coming up at the Mount Pleasant venue include: tomorrow, Alice Cooper tribute act Gallus Cooper with Scorpions tribute Scopions; Saturday, U2-2 recreate Bono and co circa The Joshua Tree; Sunday, Monsters of Rock featuring Black Sabbath tribute Sabbotage; Thursday, veteran San Francisco satirical rockers The Tubes, featuring singer Fee Waybill, make a rare UK appearance.

Dancer to make her last UK performance

A WORLD famous dancer will return to Birmingham Hippodrome for her last ever UK performance.

Sylvie Guillem will be performing Life in Progress, featuring existing and new works by choreographers who have influenced her career. Performances on September 8 and 9 will be the last by the former star of the Paris Opera Ballet and The Royal Ballet in Britain.

Promoted to the rank of 'Etoile' by Rudolf Nureyev at the age of 19, the French dancer has decided to retire at the age of 50. Her very final performance will be in Japan in December. See www.birminghamhippodrome.co.uk or call 0844 338 5000.

Punk's not dead, at least for a week

IT'S a punk rock week ahead in Birmingham and the Black Country.

Slam Dunk favourites Don Broco, whose new album Automatic comes out tomorrow, have sold out their gig at Birmingham Institute's Temple venue on Wednesday.

The Digbeth venue hosts San Francisco punk veterans The Avengers on Monday and Aussie hardcore outfit Break Even on Thursday (August 13). That's the same night US outfit A Wilhelm Scream play 02 Academy 3, Teenage Bottlerocket the Slade Rooms, and White Punks On Dope veterans The Tubes play Bilston's Robin 2.

Influential art of Japan on display

AN exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery features images by 19th century Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige.

Hiroshige's Japan: 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road feature a collection of landscapes that the artist was commissioned to create on the new road between the old capital Kyoto and Edo, which became Tokyo.

The woodblock prints, on display at the Lichfield Street gallery until November 21, had an influence on the Impressionists and even today's Manga comic art. It also the first touring exhibition to come to Wolverhampton from Oxford's prestigious Ashmolean Museum.

Forge Mill Summer- *OUT OF THIS WORLD!*

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For admission prices and opening times please refer to website.

DAY OF THE DALEKS
9 August, 11am - 4pm

ALIEN SCIENCE WORKSHOPS
12 & 19 August
9.30am, 11.00am, 1.30pm & 3.00pm
(Please book in advance)

SCARECROW DAY
30 August, 11am - 4pm

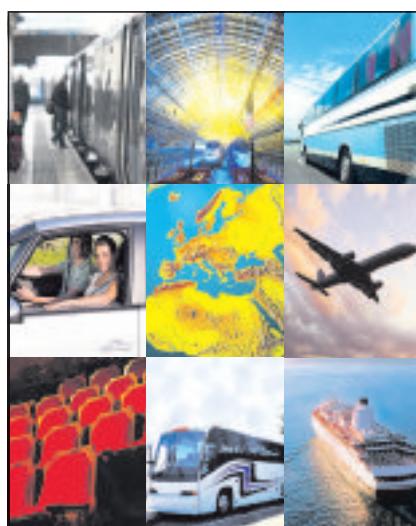
Please see website for more details
www.forgemill.org.uk



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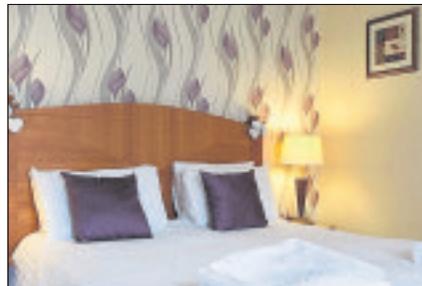
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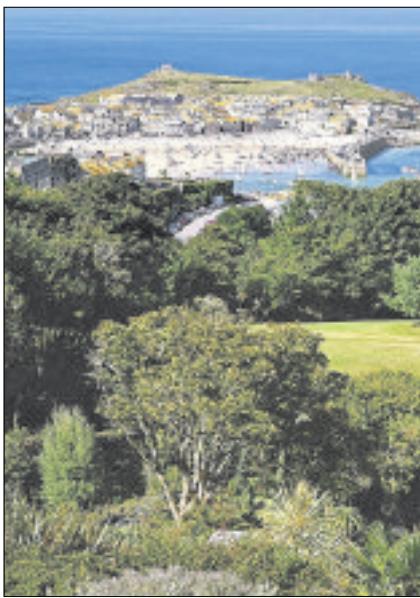
At all times of day the coastal town looks welcoming



The bedroom at the Tregenna Castle Estate



St Ives blends traditional and modern seaside attractions well



The beautiful view of the Cornish town of St Ives

A beautiful mix of old and new – St Ives welcomes you

REST, relaxation and recuperation.

It's why most go on holiday, is it not? Yes, we all love a bit of action on our breaks every now and then. A sense of fun and adventure. Trying new things.

But, sometimes, just turning the mobile phone off, ignoring the emails and cutting off the outside world is the perfect bit of therapy to recharge those batteries.

In this case, St Ives should be highly considered. A beautiful mix of old and new, it throws its arms open to welcome you in.

For the perfect overview of its quaint little harbour, then the Tregenna Castle Estate is the perfect place to base your visit.

The bay-view rooms offer spectacular views down over the shops, bars and ice-cream parlours that line the old harbour. You can also plan excursions by foot with

By Leigh Sanders

views down to the beach offering a host of options to choose between. But you don't even have to head down to the sand yet. There's plenty to do just where you are.

Tired from your long journey down? First of all, head straight for the leisure complex attached to the back of the hotel to unwind.

The indoor heated pool and spa offer somewhere relaxed for families to spend some quality time. There is also a sauna and steam room and a gym.

Squash courts are also available, and the tennis courts out front are a real treat. There are woodland walks and walled gardens to enjoy. But be prepared to tackle some hills. The journey up some of them won't be the most relaxing part of your stay. But when you are ready to hit the town then just walk straight down the hill

and let gravity guide you in. You hit Porthminster beach, a calm expanse of golden softness ideal for families. It has all the facilities you would require, and is a short walk from the harbour itself.

Activity

This is still a working port, and you can watch lazily as the fishermen bring in the latest catches you know will be adorning the array of seafood restaurants for you to sample later on. Most of the activity is to be found here, particularly for youngsters. They will want to head straight to Patsea Arcadia – harbour amusements full of fun.

While here, Kudos simply has to be visited. Located on Fore Street, it is a real Aladdin's cave chockful from floor to ceiling with wonderfully unique items the owner has sourced from trusted collectors around

the world. Once the town has been scoured it is worth heading up towards what is known as The Island. A grassy hill behind the harbour, it can be accessed via a series of narrow back streets that house a number of independent art galleries.

Once ascended, you will find the smallest of chapels providing views that will amaze. If you are lucky enough, a pod of dolphins will swim past too to welcome you.

When you have done as much or as little exploring as you like it is time to head back down in to town and sample some of that food. If you like fish and are staying at the Tregenna, then it is worth one last trek back to base to sample The Brasserie.

Exceptional service and delightful food will leave you stuffed and ready for sleep, but not before visiting the hotel bar next door and settling into one of the luxurious sofas adorning the entrance hall.

Summer at Avoncroft Museum

Summer activities until 28th August!

On Mondays: Brick-making and wattle & daub

On Tuesdays: Forest School

On Wednesdays: Bad Bugs & Pond Predators

On Thursdays: Archery & falconry

On Fridays: Traditional games

See www.avoncroft.org.uk for more details.



Avoncroft Museum
Bromsgrove, B60 4JR



Supported by the National Lottery
Arts Council England

Avoncroft
Museum

ADVERTISEMENT SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN AT AVONCROFT MUSEUM

Keep the kids entertained over the summer holidays with lots events and activities at the award-winning Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings in Bromsgrove.

From Monday 20th July until Friday 28th August, there will be a different activity to get involved in each weekday. Mondays is grubby good fun with brick making and wattle and daub and on Tuesdays there is Forest School and how to survive in the great outdoors. Wednesday is the day join our expert bug hunter to find Avoncroft's hidden creepy crawlies, while each Thursday there are drop-in "have-a-go" archery and falconry sessions. On Fridays there will be traditional games around the Museum's grounds.

Costumed characters live and work in the buildings and visitors will have the chance to chat to them and help with traditional activities such as cooking and washing.

Stroll around Avoncroft's beautiful 19 acre grounds and explore the rescued buildings. Firm favourites include a working 19th century windmill (see www.avoncroft.org.uk for our "sailing days" to see the mill in operation), the medieval Town House and the National Telephone Kiosk Collection.

Visitors can bring their own picnics to the Museum or stop off for refreshments in the Tea Room. There is a large, free car park and bicycle racks and friendly dogs on leads are very welcome in the grounds.

For full details and to see what is happening on the day of your visit, please see the website: www.avoncroft.org.uk

Avoncroft
Museum



CHOICE



Anna Friel

Odyssey
(BBC2, 9pm)

Odelle and Aslam leave the safe house and head to Algeria, while Luc remains behind, fearing their plan is doomed. While on the road, they receive devastating news from a radio report of Frank's attack on Shakir Khan. Diallo seeks revenge, but his actions leave his soldiers troubled. Bob edges ever closer to discovering the truth regarding Ruby's true identity, and Senator Darnell puts pressure on Harrison. Elsewhere, Peter makes a deal with the Societel Mining CEO as his marriage suffers, and Suzanne makes a new friend. Peter Facinelli, Anna Friel, Jake Robinson, Jim True-Frost, Sadie Sink and Omar Ghazaoui star.

BBC1

- 6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Escape to the Chateau. **3.00** Animal Odd Couples. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earth's Natural Wonders: Living on the Edge. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. John Craven visits Llandudno, to see what has made it a beloved British holiday destination for over a century. He meets a former farmer who is restoring the town's Victorian pier, takes in some traditional Welsh dancing and visits the UK's oldest Punch and Judy show. Plus, a look back at some of the best summer holiday ideas featured on the show, including paddle boarding in Dorset and the 50th anniversary of the Pennine Way. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the complex and controversial stories surrounding the origins of supposedly valuable works of art from around the world, discovering how to identify the handiwork of master forgers and revealing the bitter battles that occur in the seemingly genteel art world. (R)
- 9.00** **Partners in Crime.** Part three of three, Tuppence ponders the cryptic message she discovered in the Soho den, while Tommy is taken to a remote location by Brown's gang after his cover is blown, and forced to steal a secret file from Carter by threatening the life of his son. Tommy and Tuppence discover evidence that will expose the identity, but it is taken from them by Julian. The couple face a race against time to unmask the evil mastermind and foil the assassination of a visiting American dignitary of incredible importance to the British government.
- 10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day. **11.40** Film: The Lookout. (2007) **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

- 7.00** Thy Instant Gardener. (R) **7.45** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen: Best Bites. **11.15** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.15** More Great British... **1.00** Film: A Distant Trumpet. (1964) **2.55** Two Tribes. **3.25** Live Swimming: World Championships. **5.30** The Olympic Journey: How Far, How Fast? **6.00** **Hair.** Three competitors take part in the grand final, creating fair garde haircuts at a wedding fair and styling the hair of real brides on their big days. Last in the series. (R)
- 7.00** **Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways.** The historian examines how the expansion of the railways influenced working conditions, proved a valuable global export and even changed the way war was waged. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00** **Dragons' Den.** A technology entrepreneur brings a sports car into the studio to demonstrate a security app, while a pair of hoteliers and a luxury chocolate company seek investment.
- 9.00** **Odyssey.** News of Frank's attack on Shakir Khan hits Odelle and Aslam hard, while Bob edges ever closer to discovering the truth and Senator Darnell puts pressure on Harrison.
- 9.45** **The Javone Prince Show.** More stand-up comedy and sketches, including a Real Talk report on Britain's latest street gang. Paul, Jayne finds out what Omar really thinks of him. Last in the series.
- 10.15** **Family Guy.** Peter throws Jesus a birthday party.
- 10.35** **Family Guy.** Brian's estranged TV star son Dylan turns up in Quahog.
- 11.00** **Family Guy.** Peter forms a relationship with an elderly friend of his late mother.
- 11.20** **Film: Up There.** (2012) Premiere. A spirit charged with escorting the recently deceased to the afterlife ends up losing a soul somewhere in a seaside town. Comic fantasy, with Burn Gorman.
- 12.35** **Film: Deceived.** (1991) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Hobby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Cannimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** Superslugs. **8.30** Wiggles. **9.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Film: Columbo: Now You See Him. (1976) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.25** Film: Never Say Never Again. (1983) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery.
- 6.00** **Off Their Rockers.** More fearless senior citizens play pranks on the public, including one OAP who attempts escapology for the first time – while another fails his Zimmer-frame walking test. (R)
- 6.30** **Regional Programme;** Weather.
- 6.45** **ITV News;** Weather.
- 7.00** **Nature Nuts with Julian Clary.** Julian goes to Britain's largest carnivorous mammal in the Farne Islands, helps to capture tawny owls and dormice on film, and investigates wildlife in its own home.
- 8.00** **Midsomer Murders.** When a pub landlady is crushed to death by a giant box during a magic show organised by famous illusionist Gideon Latimer, pathologist Kate discovers the cables had been deliberately sabotaged.
- 8.30** **Evangelising curate Andrew Martin claims the tragedy is God's vengeance for the pagan traditions still held in Midsumers Oaks, but Barnaby and Nelson fear Gideon was the real target. Neil Dudgeon, Gwilym Lee and Tamzin Malleson star in the murder mystery, with Joe Absolom, Andrew-Lee Potts, Justin Salinger, Amanda Burton and Stephanie Leonidas. (R)**
- 10.00** **ITV News;** Weather.
- 10.15** **The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One.** Looking at the 1980s – a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Features interviews with 80s icons such as Spandau Ballet and Madness. Zoe Ball narrates. (R)
- 11.45** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey.** (R)
- 12.40** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15** **How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.00** British GT. **7.30** Arromy Road Races. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Chloe's Closet. (R) **6.55** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. **7.20** Little Prince. (R) **7.30** Wallace & Gromit. (R) **7.45** Zack and Quack. **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.35** LazyTown. (R) **9.00** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.05** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader. **3.10** **Film: Getting Even with Dad.** (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **5.20** **Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. (2011) **6.55** **5 News Weekend.**
- 7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the fourth day of the Fourth Ashes Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham. The Aussies are looking for a first away Ashes series win since 2001, and theomers may be good should they come away with victory here, as their last triumph on this ground also clinched that series 14 years ago. Eventual man of the series Ian Bell reached a century for the home side on the day of the Nottingham Test in 2003, before being caught by Brad Haddin off the bowling of Mitchell Starc for 109. Mark Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
- 8.00** **Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** Mac pulls over a car and finds a box packed with cannabis, officers discover a lock-up for stolen vehicles and a car thief rewrites the rules of the road. (R)
- 9.00** **Film: Takers.** (2010) Premiere. Five bank robbers are reunited with an old partner in crime just out of prison, who presents them with a plan for a lucrative armoured car robbery. As the crooks arrange what will be their final heist, a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon, Idris Elba, Hayden Christensen and Zoë Saldana.
- 11.10** **Film: The Losers.** (2010) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloe's Closet. (R) **6.55** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. **7.20** Little Prince. (R) **7.30** Wallace & Gromit. (R) **7.45** Zack and Quack. **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.35** LazyTown. (R) **9.00** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.05** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader. **3.10** **Film: Getting Even with Dad.** (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **5.20** **Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. (2011) **6.55** **5 News Weekend.**
- 7.00** **BBC Proms Sunday Symphony.** **8.30** Again, Living Up On British Towers. **9.00** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville. **10.10** The Six At Night. **10.40** Charlie Davies: Rock Photographer. **11.10** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All. **12.10** Friday Night at the Proms: Seth MacFarlane. **12.30** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville. **3.40** Close

DIGITAL

- BBC Three** **7.00** Top Gear. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.00** Film: The Mexican (2001) **10.55** Russell Howard's Good News. **11.20** Family Guy. **12.05** American Dad! **12.30** Family Guy. **12.50** People Just Do Nothing. **1.20** Don't the Bride. **2.20** Tiny breakables: Life and Love on Disability Campus. **3.20** People Just Do Nothing. **3.50** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth. **4.00** Close
- BBC Four** **7.00** BBC Proms Sunday Symphony. **8.30** Again, Living Up On British Towers. **9.00** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville. **10.10** The Six At Night. **10.40** Charlie Davies: Rock Photographer. **11.10** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All. **12.10** Friday Night at the Proms: Seth MacFarlane. **12.30** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville. **3.40** Close
- ITV3** **12.35** Film: Finding Neverland (2004) **2.20** Wycliffe. **3.35** Berlie and Elizabeth. **5.40** Inspector Morse. **8.00** Hotel in the Clouds. **9.00** Inside Asprey: Luxury by Royal Appointment. **10.00** Birds of a Feather. **10.30** Northern Lights. **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple. **1.30** Blue Murder. **2.40** ITV3 Nightscreen
- ITV4** **11.00** Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.05** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights. **7.05** Pawn Stars. **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. **9.00** Film: A View to a Kill (1985). **11.45** Film: Village of the Damned (1995). **2.50** I Want That Car. **2.45** Movies Now. **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping
- E4** **4.30** Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.35** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Rude Tube. **10.00** Gogglebox. **11.40** Tattoo Fixers. **12.50** Film: Friday the 13th (2009) **2.40** Rules of Engagement. **3.25** Hollywoods
- Film4** **11.00** The Mark of Zorro (1940) **1.00** Millions (2004) **2.55** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **4.40** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Bullet to the Head (2012) **10.45** The Rise (2012) **12.55** Ikuiri (1952) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Dangerous Company, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A successful businesswoman has a charmed life – a good career and a happy marriage – until one day things start to unravel. As she starts misplacing things, loses track of time and even fails to recognise her husband, it seems she has inherited the dementia that killed her mother – but it turns out something more sinister is at play, leaving her desperate to prove her sanity. Thriller, starring Alicia Leigh Willis, Rick Ravanello and Melissa Marty. (2015)

TUESDAY

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.25pm

A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay, Annabella Sciorra, Julianne Moore, Matt McCoy and Ernie Hudson. (1992)

**Grosse Pointe Blank**, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Black Widow, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Photожournalist Melanie becomes jealous when her wealthy male friend gets engaged. But as she tries to dig up some dirt on his fiancée, she realises her love rival may actually be a murderer, who has married a series of rich men and killed them to claim their money. Thriller, starring Elizabeth Berkley. (2008)

THURSDAY

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, BBC2, 12pm

A washed-up American football player tormented by the death of a friend faces a difficult reunion with his dying father. Drama, starring Paul Newman. (1958)

FRIDAY

Grosse Pointe Blank, BBC1, 11.35pm

A hitman takes the chance to combine his latest assassination job with a trip back to his home town for a school reunion. The occasion starts to get complicated when an old flame turns up and rekindles their lost romance – while a rival killer harasses him to join an assassins' union. Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack. (1997)

Jimmy faces a burning issue in the Highlands

What do Steptoe and Son, Last of the Summer Wine, The Liver Birds, Up Pompeii, Till Death Do Us Part and Are You Being Served? have in common?

Well, in addition to being among some of the best-loved and most successful sitcoms in the BBC archives, they all started life as episodes of Comedy Playhouse.

The anthology, which aired between 1961 and 1975, featured one-off comedy pilots, with the best-received being turned into full series.

Of course, not every episode went on to be fondly remembered classic – Sharmot, On the Knockier, or Barnaby Spoot and the Exploding Whoopee Cushion, anyone? – but the hit rate was high enough for the BBC to revive the format last year with three more pilots.

And now one of them, Miller's Mountain, has been renamed Mountain Goats and given a six-part run – and some may think that given the Comedy Playhouse track record, it's got a lot to live up to.

Luckily, the signs are promising as

the new series does have a great cast in its favour, including Sharon Rooney, who is probably best known for her acclaimed performance as scheming Rae in E4's My Mad Fat Diary.

She's certainly enjoying her latest role, especially as it's provided her with a change of pace.

She told Radio Times: "Comedy has been nice to me because My Mad Fat Diary was quite emotional. I don't think I've ever laughed so much on a job. They gave us an outtake video and we're laughing on it the whole time."

Hopefully, the audience will be just as amused. For those who missed the pilot, the series is described by the BBC as "an energetic studio sitcom set around the antics of a ragtag group of Mountain Rescue volunteers. Set in the Highlands, the series takes us from pub to hillside as our ramshackle family try to save walkers, climbers, dogs and, most often, themselves."

In particular, it focuses on the young, enthusiastic, and more than a

little naïve Connor (Kevin Mains), who has just joined the team. He's learning under the supposedly watchful eye of Jimmy (Jimmy Chisholm), who is an old hand – although organisation is not his strong point.

Other characters include Bernie (Kathryn Howden), the team's head of operations, and Jules (Rooney), a no-nonsense barmaid – in fact, one of the most striking aspects of the pilot was that for a show about mountain rescue, a surprising amount of the action took place in the pub.

We're promised some location filming in the series proper, so we may get a better sense of the great outdoors.

In this first episode, Connor continues to learn the ropes, but his mum isn't particularly happy about his new career... and no wonder, given that Jimmy proves he can't really be trusted with his own safety after he burns his house down.

Is Connor's first rescue mission going to be finding a new home for his fellow rescuer?

**Jimmy Chisholm (left) stars in Mountain Goats**, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Flying to the Ends of the Earth
Channel 4, 8pm

Arthur Williams travels to the deserts of northern Australia, the islands of the Coral Sea and the jungles of Papua New Guinea, where flying is the only way in and out. He first visits a couple running a cattle station almost as big as Wales, where helicopters round up thousands of cows in a risky aerial ballet, before flying on to meet the Turner family, who bought their own desert island in the Coral Sea in 1985. Finally, Arthur joins the flying missionaries of Papua, who brave perilous jungle airstrips to bring supplies.

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild
Channel 5, 9pm

The ever-affable adventurer's latest series draws to a close with a trip to French Polynesia in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, a place rarely explored by humans. But two people who love it there and know it better than most is 47-year-old Brit Rick and his 33-year-old Slovenian girlfriend Jasna. Unlike previous participants in the series, Rick and Jasna don't live in a shack on dry land – they describe themselves as sea gypsies, who wander the ocean in a tiny sailing boat. Ben learns more about their lifestyle by finding out how to free-dive

to drop anchor, preserve the food their catch and how to make wine. He also gets up close and personal with some of the creatures who share the environment with Rick and Jasna.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm

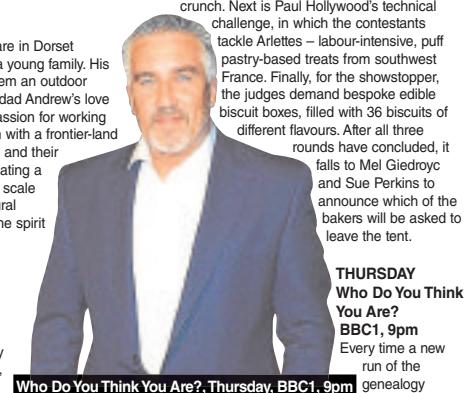
Alan Titchmarsh and the team are in Dorset creating an exciting garden for a young family. His idea for the Drakes is to give them an outdoor space that reflects terminally ill dad Andrew's love of the great outdoors and his passion for working with wood. He opts for a garden with a frontier-land theme that Andrew, wife Rachel and their young son Lucas can enjoy, creating a prairie-inspired back yard of big scale rustic wood structures, agricultural motifs with craftsmanship and the spirit of adventure at its core.

WEDNESDAY
The Great British Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm

With the cake week completed, and one of their number already eliminated from the competition, the 11 remaining home bakers

must now prove their skill at making biscuits, a task that can be deceptively difficult, and one that has undone many a confident Bake Off contestant in the past. The opening signature challenge this week is to create 24 biscuits, Italian delicacies that must be baked twice to deliver the perfect crisp crunch.

Next is Paul Hollywood's technical challenge, in which the contestants tackle Arlettes – labour-intensive, puff pastry-based treats from southwest France. Finally, for the showstopper, the judges demand bespoke edible biscuit boxes, filled with 36 biscuits of different flavours. After all three rounds have concluded, it falls to Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins to announce which of the bakers will be asked to leave the tent.



THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm

Every time a new run of the genealogy

series is announced, viewers are left wondering who will be featured on it. After all this time and so many editions, some have suggested that the show must be running out of steam and that the celebrities will soon be Z-listers rather than bona fide stars. However, the programme's researchers keep coming up trumps – and if you need proof of that check out the list of luminaries set to grace this, the 12th season. Great British Bake Off star Paul Hollywood (who is the first celeb to appear), model Jerry Hall, Last Tango in Halifax cohorts Derek Jacobi and Anne Reid, polymath Mark Gatiss, actresses Frances de la Tour and Jane Seymour, choirmaster Gareth Malone, journalist Frank Gardner and presenter Anita Rani will all feature.

FRIDAY
Would I Lie to You?
BBC1, 8.30pm

No sooner has she left The One Show sofa, the ubiquitous Alex Jones is back, this time on the panel show in which participants attempt to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves. It's all in good fun, and host Rob Brydon and team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack know how to squeeze the maximum amount of laughter from each absurd suggestion.

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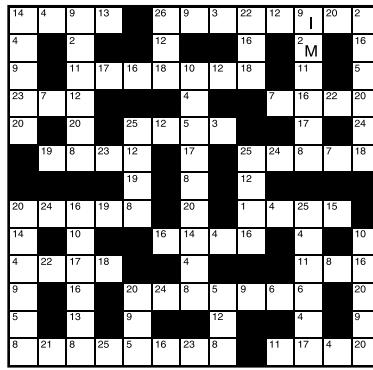
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BRAIN GYM

No.336

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	B	I	W	E	L	D	F	T	N	R	X	O	Q	C	V	Z	G	P	Y	M	S	J	K	A	U

Quiz

- In which Australian state is Ayers Rock?
- What is killer Albert De Salvo better known as?
- What are Limburger and Camembert?
- Who was the wife of Othello?
- Who created Winnie-the-Pooh?
- What Roman goddess is equivalent to the Greek Aphrodite?
- In which city is the Uffizi art gallery?
- What is France's TGV?
- On what island was Napoleon first exiled?
- Which country produces Saab cars and missiles?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Belgian; 2 1929; 3 Ventriloquism;
4 Yoko Ono; 5 Astronomy; 6 Jethro Tull;
7 Little; 8 Spain; 9 Argentina; 10 Radio
detection and ranging.
Niner: ALONGSIDE

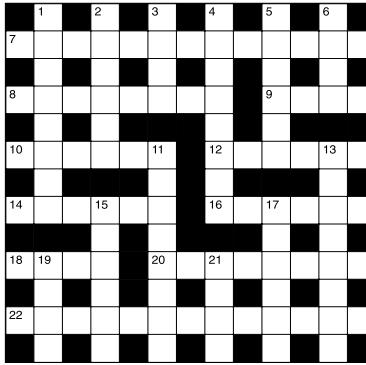
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- After which one might steal cook's thunder? (5,2,3,3)
- Low dance game (8)
- Liquid container used in battle (4)
- Healthier craftsman (6)
- Laid roughly around similar points, and away from the coast (6)
- Gas ten representatives (6)
- The beginner must be good! (6)
- Find fault with the fish (4)
- Evidence of birds drinking? (8)
- Irrelevant and not quite on target (6,3,4)
- 100 with a tendency towards charwoman's work (8)
- Agree with the way it was despatched (6)
- Mail for South American capital (4)
- Horse is not all out (8)
- Learnt about hire charge (6)
- Mother is at home on the high seas (4)
- Side rest, having been in opposition (8)
- A job well done in the South of France? (4,4)
- Serviette taken from relations after short sleep (6)
- A measure of the book's contents? (6)
- Help place a wager (4)
- A chemist has the pain first (4)
- 100 with a tendency towards charwoman's work (8)
- Agree with the way it was despatched (6)
- Mail for South American capital (4)
- Horse is not all out (8)
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- Help place a wager (4)
- A chemist has the pain first (4)



Quick Clues:

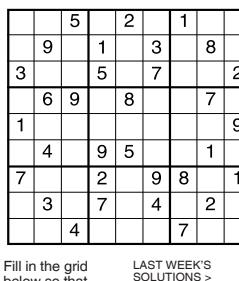
Across

- Shameful (13)
- Clergyman (8)
- Cylinder (4)
- Progenitor (6)
- Disregard (6)
- Facile (4)
- Captain (6)
- Dourly (6)
- Applaud (4)
- Power (8)
- Loan (13)
- Lessen (8)
- Flourish (6)
- Item (4)
- Protecting (8)
- Box (6)
- Facile (4)
- Irritating (8)
- Kinsman (8)
- Spread out (6)
- Set on fire (6)
- Shortage (4)
- Coarse (4)

Down

1. Side rest, having been in opposition (8)
2. Flourish (6)
3. Item (4)
4. Protecting (8)
5. Box (6)
6. Facile (4)
7. Lessen (8)
8. Clergyman (8)
9. Cylinder (4)
10. Progenitor (6)
11. Irritating (8)
12. Disregard (6)
13. Kinsman (8)
14. Captain (6)
15. Serviette taken from relations after short sleep (6)
16. Dourly (6)
17. A measure of the book's contents? (6)
18. Applaud (4)
19. Help place a wager (4)
20. Power (8)
21. Loan (13)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
7 5 8 2 3 6 9 1 4
3 9 2 8 4 7 6 5
6 4 1 7 9 3 2 8
9 1 7 5 2 3 4 8 6
5 7 3 6 8 5 7 2 9
2 3 6 8 5 7 1 6 8
8 7 5 4 9 2 6 4 1
2 6 4 1 7 5 8 9 3
1 3 9 4 6 8 2 5 7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fall; 8 Apostrophe; 9 Reappear; 10 Cast; 12 Patent; 14 Errors; 15 Missed; 17 Scorns; 18 Snow; 19 Currents; 21 Overlooked; 22 Step. Down: 2 Alteration; 3 Lamp; 4 Potent; 5 Slave; 6 Concerto; 7 Beat; 11 Lamp; 13 Eastward; 16 Doctor; 17 Strike; 18 Sept; 20 October. QUIZ - Across: 1 Credit; 8 Unraveling; 9 Pavement; 10 Used; 12 Divert; 14 Raider; 15 Insert; 17 Create; 18 Debt; 19 Overture; 21 Accomplice; 22 Meek. Down: 2 At variance; 3 Sure; 4 Lament; 5 Banter; 6 Illumine; 7 Aged; 11 Electorate; 13 Erection; 16 Troupe; 17 Credit; 18 Deal; 20 Team.

Thinking space



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Spend a day admiring Niagara Falls and perhaps choose to take an optional helicopter flight over the Falls for a bird's eye view. Alternatively enjoy lunch in a restaurant (payable locally) overlooking this fabulous natural wonder.

Also on the itinerary is a two-night stay in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, set on the Susquehanna River, home to the world-famous Hershey chocolate empire and the National Civil War Museum.

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TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES



QUEENSWAY WOLLESCOTE

A spacious first floor two bedroom maisonette situated in a popular and convenient location with accommodation to comprise of: Kitchen, walk in pantry, Inner Hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from outside enclosed terrace and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D ONE MONTHS RENT FREE

DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£355.00PCM DEPOSIT £455 • FEES

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL



A two bedroom second floor apartment within a popular residential location with easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of: Private entrance, private entrance hall with built in storage cupboard, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial storage heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

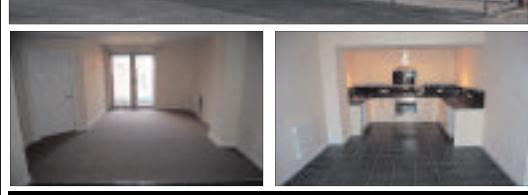
£380PCM DEPOSIT £480 • FEES



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from electric heating, lawned foregarden and communal parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = TO FOLLOW DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 • FEES



KINGS MEWS WOLLASTON

A brand new one bedroom ground floor apartment within walking distance of Wollaston Village. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, paved patio area to the fore and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475.00PCM DEPOSIT £575 • FEES

PLATTS CRESCENT AMBLECOTE



A well presented Three Bedroom Family Home situated in a Popular Residential Location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, three Bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E Children: YES DSS: MAY CONSIDER. Pets: MAY CONSIDER. Smokers: NO

£570.00PCM DEPOSIT £670 • FEES



VICARAGE ROAD LYE

A three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, first floor landing and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear paved garden with part brick built store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550.00PCM DEPOSIT £650 • FEES



OLD MILL FARM HOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD

An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Ground Floor - Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby. First Floor - Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites Shower Rooms. Bedroom has En-Suite Bath. Second Floor - Bedrooms Four and Five and House Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a gravelled driveway leading to the rear of the property where there is ample off road parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£2000PCM DEPOSIT £2100 • FEES



WHEELER STREET STOURBRIDGE

A very well presented three bedroom end terrace property situated in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge and close to all amenities and local transport. The accommodation comprises of: Lounge, dining room, rear lobby, kitchen and bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, shared rear parking and enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO Pets: No Children: Yes Smokers: No

£625.00PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES



GREENSFORGE LANE STOURTON

An elegant and impressive house set in a mature wooded setting offering both seclusion and privacy and being close to Stourbridge, having excellent road links and schools. The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, games room, conservatory, cloakroom, cellars, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. The property further boasts integral garaging, driveway affording parking, beautiful terraced garden with mature woodland, all weather tennis court and outbuildings. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£5000PCM DEPOSIT £10000 • FEES

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END OF SALE STOCK CLEARANCE

		WAS	NOW	SAVE		WAS	NOW	SAVE
14/14	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIV 5-dr. 12,361 miles, Blue ...	£13,195	£11,995	£1200	10/10	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi ECOFLEX ENERGY 5-dr. 51,980 miles, Red...	£5495	£4995 £500
12/62	VOLKSWAGEN 1.0 HIGH UP 3-dr. 2,383 miles, Red	£7695	£7195	£500	11/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 EXCITE (AC) 5-dr. 19,861 miles, Orange...	£6950	£6195 £755
09/09	VOLVO C30 2.0D R DESIGN SPORT. 54,403 miles, Grey	£8995	£7795	£1200	14/63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5-dr. 15,177 miles, Blue.....	£8195	£7695 £500
13/62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i (115) EXCLUSIV 5-dr. 25,525 miles, Black....	£8795	£8195	£600	14/14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE 5-dr. 10,217 miles, Red	£8295	£7895 £400
12/12	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8i DESIGN 5-dr. 32,112 miles, Black.....	£8795	£8195	£600	15/64	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi (AC) 3-dr. 8 miles, Silver	£9450	£8995 £455
14/64	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6i EXCLUSIV 5-dr. 12,243 miles, Black... 14/64	£14,495	£13,995	£500	12/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi (AC) 5-dr. 21,387 miles, Silver	£7295	£6495 £800
13/13	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T EXCLUSIV 4WD 5-dr. 8,005 miles, Red ...	£14,995	£13,495	£1500	12/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 ECOFLEX S 3-dr. 29,432 miles, Blue	£6295	£5495 £800
14/64	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T SE 5-dr. 12,039 miles, Grey	£16,150	£15,495	£655	11/11	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi 16V ECOFLEX SRI 5-dr. 39,552 miles, Silver ..	£9000	£7895 £1105
14/64	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T SE 5-dr. 9,812 miles, White.....	£16,495	£15,695	£800	10/60	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi 18V SRI (120) 5-dr. 47,505 miles, Silver..	£6995	£5795 £1200
11/11	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4T 16V EXCLUSIV 5-dr. 28,177 miles, silver....	£7495	£6995	£500	10/10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16V SE 5-dr. 34,165 miles, Black.....	£7295	£6695 £600
12/12	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRI VX-LINE (160) 5-dr. 32,341 miles, Red..	£11,295	£10,495	£800	11/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16V SRI (115) 3-dr. 34,403 miles, Silver ..	£6495	£6000 £495
14/14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi (140) ECOFLEX TECHLINE (Start Stop) 5-dr. 10,777 miles, Grey....	£15,450	£14,695	£755	14/14	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i JAM 3-dr. 12,231 miles, White.....	£9695	£9195 £500
14/63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i 16V (100) SE 5-dr. 16,633 miles, Silver ...	£7995	£7495	£500	11/11	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 VVT SE Auto 5-dr. 22,022 miles, Blue.....	£5895	£5295 £600
13/64	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6T VXR 3-dr. 10 miles, Silver	£13,995	£13,295	£700	11/60	FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5-dr. 40,775 miles, Silver	£6995	£5995 £1000
11/11	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5-dr. 29,974 miles, Silver	£6750	£6195	£555	07/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SXi 3-dr. 40,263 miles, Silver.....	£4895	£4495 £400
14/14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5-dr. 10,784 miles, Black	£8495	£7995	£500				

*Terms and Conditions Apply - Excludes Motability and all other T Wall current offers

T Wall Garages

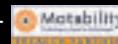
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07/57	PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN 3-dr. Laser Red, 50,000 miles	£3295	10/60	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE 5-dr. Red, 48,000 miles
05/05	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 BREEZE 5-dr. Silver, 50,000 miles	£3295	12/62	VOLKSWAGEN 1.0 HIGH UP 3-dr. Red, 2,000 miles.....
07/57	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS Sport 3-dr. Silver, 34,000 miles	£3495	14/14	FIAT 500 1.2 S 3-dr. White, 4,000 miles.....
06/56	SEAT IBIZA 1.8 20V FR 5-dr. Black, 63,000 miles.....	£4000	10/59	MERCEDES B-CLASS B160 SE 5-dr Automatic. Blue, 36,000 miles
09/09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.0 EXPRESSION 5-dr. Red, 28,000 miles	£4295	09/09	VOLVO C30 2.0D R DESIGN Sport 3-dr. Grey, 54,000 miles.....
07/07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5-dr. Silver, 39,000 miles	£4495	12/62	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 VISIA 5-dr. white, 15,000 miles
07/57	FORD FIESTA 1.4 GHIA 5-dr. Blue, 44,000 miles	£4495	06/06	PORSCHE CAYENNE 3.2 TIPTRONIC S 5-dr. Grey, 74,000 miles
07/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi 3-dr. Silver, 40,000 miles.....	£4495	13/13	FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBOOST 125 ZETEC 3-dr. Blue, 7,000 miles
08/08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi 5-dr. Silver, 31,000 miles.....	£4995		
04/54	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.0 Convertible 2-dr. Silver, 53,000 miles	£4995		
08/08	TOYOTA AURIS 1.6 VVTi TR 5-dr. Blue, 56,000 miles.....	£4995		
08/08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi 5-dr. Black, 46,000 miles	£4995		
07/57	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE 3-dr. Silver, 26,000 miles	£4995		
10/10	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 I-MUSIC 3-dr. Silver, 34,000 miles	£5295		
06/56	MINI 1.6 COOPER 3-dr. Silver, 48,000 miles	£5295		
10/10	MAZDA 2 1.3 TS 5-dr. Grey, 31,000 miles	£5295		
09/59	CITROEN C3 1.4 VTi VTR+ 5-dr. Blue, 26,000 miles	£5495		
10/10	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Sri 3-dr. White, 48,000 miles	£5995		
12/62	HYUNDAI i10 1.2 ACTIVE 5-dr. white, 11,000 miles	£6195		
11/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Sri 3-dr. Silver, 34,000 miles	£6000		
10/60	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi SRI Estate (XP). Black, 55,000 miles	£6495		
09/59	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC 5-dr. Blue, 49,000 miles	£6495		
12/12	FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 3-dr. Red, 9,000 miles	£6695		
11/60	FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5-dr. Silver, 40,000 miles	£5995	07/57	MINI COOPER 1.6 3-dr. White, 38,000 miles

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New Jazz very affordable

Honda's all-new Honda Jazz subcompact hatchback will be priced from £13,495 on-the-road for the entry-level S model, rising to £17,425 for the flagship EX Navi CVT model.

Competitive PCP options for the versatile and sophisticated new Honda are expected to start from £149 per month (5.9 per cent APR with a 30 per cent deposit), bringing exceptional affordability to the subcompact hatchback segment.

The all-new Jazz builds on the strong reputation of its highly successful predecessors. The newcomer retains the classic Jazz silhouette yet exhibits distinctive contemporary styling, including a powerful new face and strong character lines.

A new platform increases overall length by 95 mm, but highly efficient packaging means that the latest Jazz is proportionally even bigger on the inside than the previous generation model. Occupants will benefit from both boot space (354 litres with the rear seats up and 897 litres with the rear seats down) and passenger space that are unrivalled in the class. The all-new Jazz offers exceptional versatility, retaining Honda's highly practical Magic Seat system which allows for numerous cargo configurations and a maximum interior loading length of an impressive 2,480 mm.

Specifications are generous across the range, with base-grade S models fitted as standard with features such as air conditioning, cruise control with speed limiter and dusk sensing auto lights. Every grade comes with Honda's City-Brake Active to help avoid low-speed accidents.

The mid-grade SE model, priced from £14,595, adds front and rear parking sen-

sors, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors and 15" alloy wheels. Honda's Driver Assistance Safety Pack is also included, giving owners the extra reassurance of five advanced active safety aids.

Those opting for the top-grade EX model (from £15,715) get smart entry and start, automatic climate control and six-speaker audio upgrade. Styling is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels and front fog lamps.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download from the Honda App Centre. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is available as an option on SE and EX models.

Designed and engineered to achieve a five-star Euro NCAP rating, every all-new Jazz sold in Europe will be equipped with Honda's City-Brake Active system as standard. SE and EX models will be fitted with Honda's Driver Assistance Safety Pack, which uses radar sensors, plus forward- and rear-facing cameras. This comprehensive suite of active safety technologies includes forward collision warning, traffic sign recognition, intelligent speed limiter, lane departure warning and high-beam support system.

A new, highly efficient, highly responsive 1.3 litre i-VTEC petrol engine from Honda's Earth Dreams Technology series delivers 102 PS at 6,000 rpm. This power unit delivers the sprightly driving performance of the previous



• • • • •
**'Now in its third generation,
Jazz continues to evolve
its unique blend of quality,
compact exterior dimensions
and class-leading interior
space.'**
• • • • •

Jazz's 1.4 litre engine, together with fuel economy equivalent to its 1.2 litre.

Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT, emissions are as low as 106 g/km of CO₂. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds and provides optimised gear change mapping.

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "Now in its third generation, Jazz continues to evolve its unique blend of quality, compact exterior dimensions and class-leading interior space. And,

with highly competitive list prices from just £13,495 and very affordable PCP packages from £139 per month, we are expecting strong demand for the all-new Jazz."

"The all-new Jazz signals the fourth of five new and refreshed models for Honda in Europe in 2015, an exciting year in which we're boldly re-energising the brand. The Jazz is a world car that has now sold over five million units since it was introduced in 2001. The greatest strength of Jazz is its broad appeal to different customer segments, and we're confident this latest generation will only broaden that appeal."

It goes on sale in the UK in September.

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CORSA STING 3DR	£98.87 x35	£9,175.00	£2,290.00	£6,885.00	£1,153.45	£4,578.00	£10,328.45	6,000	£0.09	6.68%	6.9%
VIVA SE 5DR	£89.76 x35	£7,995.00	£1,900.00	£6,095.00	£1,012.60	£3,966.00	£9,007.60	6,000	£0.09	6.68%	6.9%
ADAM JAM 3DR	£99.49 x35	£11,630.00	£4,340.00	£7,290.00	£495.15	£4,303.00	£12,125.15	6,000	£0.09	2.9%	2.9%
NEW MOKKA	£199 x60	£17,995.00	£6,055.00	£11,940.00	£NIL	£NIL	£17,995.00	N/A	N/A	0%	0%

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Stourbridge Motor House

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.6i 16v 210PS VXR Turbo Clubsport with 18" wheels, M6: Urban: 27.7 (10.2), Extra-urban: 46.3 (6.1), Combined: 37.2 (7.6). CO₂ emissions: 178g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.3 CDTi 95PS Design A/C ecoFLEX Stop/Start with 14" & 15" wheels, M5: Urban: 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 88g/km.

Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 20th September 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. *Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF5 7YT. At the end of the agreement there are three options: (i) Return the vehicle, or (ii) Replace Part Exchange the vehicle where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions. [†]First year Insurance available on ADAM SLAM only. All policies underwritten by Agens Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific terms apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £59 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car; every 3 months your policy will be reviewed and if you drive well we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium of drivers aged 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1st July and 30th September 2015. [‡]Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details.

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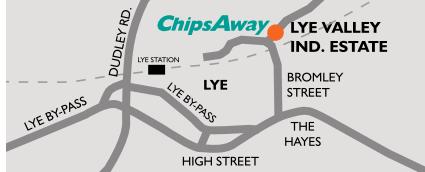
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DRIVETIME



Volvo XC90 qualifies for grant

Volvo's first petrol plug-in hybrid, the XC90 T8 Twin Engine, has qualified for the UK Plug-in Car Grant (PICG) scheme from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

The Swedish firm's new XC90 T8 Twin Engine is now available with an on-road price of £54,995 (including PICG).

The XC90 is the first car to be built on Volvo's first in-house designed and built platform, and powered by Volvo's

new Drive-E powertrains. With a combined output of 407hp, this seven-seat SUV emits just 49g/km of CO₂, at the same time being able to go from zero to 60mph in 5.3 seconds.

Neatly

The car's platform is designed to incorporate the hybrid hardware without encroaching on interior space, with the necessary battery pack being neatly concealed within the centre console. The Drive-E powertrain in the XC90 utilises both a 320hp petrol engine and 87hp electric motor.

The Plug-in Car Grant (PICG) has

been designed to encourage manufacturers to decrease the level of outputted CO₂ exhaust emissions.

To achieve this, hybrid vehicles must emit less than 75g/km, a minimal travelling range of 10 miles and must reach a speed of at least 60mph.

Companies choosing the XC90 T8 Twin Engine can benefit by writing down as much as 100 per cent of the cost against their income tax liability.

Drivers who choose the XC90 T8 Momentum, for example, pay as little as £995.80 BIK a month (40 per cent tax payer) whilst enjoying a full 7-seat SUV with 407hp.



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09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated ft screen £6495 / £34	01/11 Landrover Discovery TD5 GS Diesel Automatic 7 seater, 89k, Green, Alloys, E/windows, Twin Sunroof £4995 / £41 Per Week
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07/07 Mini Cooper 1.6 With JCW Body Styling 72k, Red/Black, Alloys, Red Leather Trim, Air Con, E/Windows, Fog Lights £5995 / £30 Per Week	08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr, ONE OWNER, 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week
09/09 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr, 33k, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, E/windows £5695 / £27	07/07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, 53k, Violet, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Heated Screen, CD £3995 / £19 Per Week
07/07 Mercedes Vito 109 CDI LWB Diesel Van 109k, White, Sliding Side Doors, Ply Lined £5295 NO VAT	07/07 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 51k, Blue, LOW INSURANCE, Air Con, CD, Climate Pack £3995 / £19 Per Week
07/07 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 64k, Beige, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week	08/07 Ford KA 1.3 Luxury ONLY 12k Miles, Blue, Full Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3495 / £18 Per Week
06/06 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 VVT + 3dr 4WD, ONE OWNER, 56k miles, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/windows £4995 / £24 Per Week	02/02 Mini Cooper 1.6 Automatic 82k, Yellow, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, Half Leather £3195 / £35 Per Week

Finance example: 07/07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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lost & found

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Friday, July 10, much loved neutered white/ginger cat, microchipped, part of left ear missing due to recent op.
Needs vet treatment.
Call 07519 746679.

LOST - Saturday 25th pm, outside Tattenhall Institute Honda car key and keys. 01902 836299.



MISSING AFRICAN GREY PARROT YOUNG MALE
Answers to Archie.
Lost since June 29 Bilbrook/Codsall area. Red tail feathers with ring on left leg. If any sightings, 01902 845414/07743 367122.

religious notices

christadelphian

BIBLE ANSWERS What is the true Gospel? August 9, at 6pm The Tabernacle Church, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for a free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

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caravans / motorhomes

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2004 in stunning condition, many extras plus Isabella awning used once, ready to go. 1st viewer will buy.

Genuine reason for sale. £6,000 no offers please.

01922 493667 / 07769 400448 / 07900 486393.

CARAVAN FOR SALE Hoburne Devon TQ4 7JP. 3 bedroom holiday home on picturesque park, fantastic views & facilities. Competitive site fees, central location in Paignton. First viewer will buy. £10,995. Please call 01803 696276

CARAVAN STEP

lightweight, as new. unused. 5 pole wind breaker, as new, still wrapped.

Water hog, nearly new.

£45 the lot.

01902 33790/07951 533963.

CHEAP STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE on Presthaven Sands In North Wales £14,995. 10 & half month season call Joe on 07837 499660

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Over 150 Buses and Pre Owned Coaches and Minibuses in stock. Prices starting from £1,995 Swift, Sprite, Sterling, Bailey, Ellis, Coachman, Bessacarr, 7 day service department. 2015 PRACTICAL CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR. For more info call Paul on 07872 671163

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge, DY8 1JL. Tel: 01902 580000

RENTAL TRAFFIC 1,9, D. Camper Van. Mot, cooker, fridges, rock & roll bed, good condition. £4,500. Tel: 07443 451650 or 07772 744178.

FreeAds



MAZDA BONGO CAMPERVAN

Very good condition, pop up roof, rock n roll bed, drive away awning. 2.0 petrol.

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Fishing and woodland walks. Site fees paid till end 2015. £14,950.

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holiday homes

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self catering holidays

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items for sale

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what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT (NEXT TO WILCOS), FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 8.00AM - 4PM 07712 597468 www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

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3 Home & Services

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Open Everyday 10am-6pm
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4 Pets & Animals

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAVALIER PUPPIES ready Septemb

er. Deposit, secure. Breeder Mrs Winifred Arley 01299 861398

COCKAPOO'S Spaniel X Poodle, two boys, one girl, black, £500. Tel: 01922 528528

COCKER SPANIEL puppies, blue, black, 15 Champions in pedigree, KC reg and insured, parents eye tested clear, DNA tested clear, ready now. 07936 180943. Staffordshire.

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FIAT PANDA 2006, 1.2 automatic, yellow, good condition, MoT May 13, 2016, 56,000 miles, selling due to giving up driving. £1,750. 0no. 07905 432569.

FORD FIESTA 1.2, Studio, 3-dr hatch, 07 reg, blue, MoT'd, 48,000 miles, very good condition. £2,395. 01902 650894 0780221.

FORD KA 1.3, 2005, 31,000 miles, Two owners, 8 months MoT, FSH. £1,650. 07443 567011.

LEXUS IS450 hgs Hybrid, 2006, 56, auto, blue, new shape, full leather, fully loaded, one owner from new. £6,250ono. 07852 252582.

MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE 1.6 Petrol, 2008, 51,000 miles, pepper white, immaculate. £5,995. 07743 448164.

PEUGEOT ALLURE 207 SW, 62 plate, exected delivery, Azurine blue, low mileage, car, excellent. £7,500. 07500 834943.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 2010, silver, 14,000 miles, Tom Tom, clean, immaculate, MoT'd, cruise control, £3,250. 07460 116516.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE MK3 1.4, 2006, Black, 86,000 miles. Reliable. Excellent condition. FSH, 12 months MoT, A/C. New brakes. New cam belt. Major service. CD player.

Parking sensors. Spare key. £1,795. 0no. 07799 437200.

ROVER 216 COUPE GTI 1990, Twin cam, Honda Engine. Low Mileage. Lady owner. Full MoT. Excellent condition. First to see will buy. £2,500. 01746 763419.

SKODA FABIA 5-dr Hatchback, 2010, red, 1,200cc, Petrol, 51k, MoT till 07/16, £3,250. Genuine reason for sale, 01743 792836.

TOYOTA AURIS late 07, 2010, 5dr, 1.6, 11,000 miles, MoT'd, FSH, Grey, Met. £4,444. 01746 714470 or 07814 263474.

full time - general

WANTED BRITISH Motorcycle for private buyer, 01902 829472 or 07928 721487.

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commercial vehicles

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FORD TRANSIT VAN 04 reg, 6 months MoT, good runner, needs breaks and back locks. SOLD

LAND ROVER TD5 LWB, 2004, ex utility, service records, waxy/oiled, ploughed, Silver, 150k Inc VAT. 01902 737542/736281.

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600L 1.9 diesel Panel van, 2005, 109k Miles, MoT Oct 15. Ply Lined. Good condition. £1,250 ono 07919 387115

driving tuition

VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTI EcoFLEX September 13, 63 plate, 14,927 miles. Silver. Top spec. Sat Nav. Stop start etc. As new. £10,995. 07703 463444.

Homer's Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris. 10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered Male/Female Instructors Manual & Automatic AD/PDI Required. Gift vouchers available. 07970 200066 / 01222 780250 01562 009050 / 01384 234954 01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090 01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA CBR125 excellent condition. 56 reg, £1,450. 07799 292474.

KAWASAKI 750ZR, Red. 54 reg, MoT'd, March 2016. Great bike. £1,500. 01902 685683 or 07594 146163.

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Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.

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ALL AREAS COVERED

personal

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52, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.

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DUDLEY MBC Planning Act 2008 Localism Act 2011

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) Approval and Publication of a Charging Schedule (Regulation 25)

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Dudley MBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Adoption Approval and publication of the Charging Schedule

In accordance with the regulations, Dudley MBC has published the following documents on its website:

• Dudley MBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

• The Examiner's Report recommending approval of the Dudley CIL Charging Schedule subject to a number of modifications

• The Report and decision by Council to adopt the Dudley CIL Charging Schedule

• Dudley CIL Adoption Statement (July 2015)

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/cil/>

The Dudley MBC CIL Charging Schedule was approved by Council on 13th July 2015 and will become effective on 1st October 2015.

Inspection Arrangements

Copies of the above documents are available for public inspection at:

• During normal office hours at the Council's Offices at 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HL.

• At the Council's Dudley Council Plus Centre reception, located at 259 Castle Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1LQ.

• At all main Dudley Libraries.

• On the Council's website: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/cil/>

For further information contact localplan@dudley.gov.uk, call 01384 73436 or write to Strategic Planning and Historic Environment, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL.

John Millar Acting Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing)



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AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty blonde seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418171

WENDY, 40, slim, lit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. PIs call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box No: 418167

JON, 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broad minded man of any age/location for no strings, discrete times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's what you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks male for strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4505198

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

KELLY, 42yrs, loves to chat and flirt with guys on-line and by text. Text only to Mailbox No: 4565847

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MINDY, American lady moved to UK and looking to meet British chap for chats, fun, more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4565853

EILEEN, slim green eyed blonde, likes meals out and come night outs, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4183478

TARA, 32, own successful business but very shy and lonely sees confident chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4646629

FEMALE fun Brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4162878

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/l with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

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FEMALE fun Brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4162878

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HEATHER, 34, single very attractive

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DAVE 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's what you text me. Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134

DUBLINER good sense of humour, strong and very fit would love to meet a warm sensitive, non-smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4754715

WIDOWER would love to meet female over 70 for friendship. Car owner. Fed up being lonely. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760869

MALE, 50s, caring, easy going seeks female 40/50 for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4761012

TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 317652

PAL 51 year old male divorced, good sense of humour, likes full and animals, looking for a balanced lady to share happy times with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4860244

MALE seeking female, 45, plus status important, discretion assured for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603

PROFESSIONAL gentleman would like to meet a lady, any age/race for discreet daytime fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4853198

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent lady to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083

ATTRACTIVE 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, any mate to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSoh, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-65, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416089

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DAWN 44, attractive, seeks loving, and dazzling, WLMT well built male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197

SUSANNAH, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks mate with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837

Gwen middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, male, holidays, seeks N/S mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415758

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

KAREN 55, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and attractive, seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416800

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman, seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

SLIM fair-haired lady, 5ft 4in looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. Text Only Mailbox No: 452727

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman, seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45y old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415535

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

GEM 34y old pretty blonde with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLMT kind tallish male, 30-50s for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

COLIN 26, GSoh, likes the outdoors, wine and good food, medium athletic build, WLMT older woman for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876

COLIN 28, 6ft 2in, tall and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4750168

MIKE 61, 5ft 5in, Coalville area seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4709567

MALE nurse, tall dark and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. Text only to Mailbox No: 472512

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651

BBW lover looking for fun and frolics in the afternoon or evening. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417795

Men seeking men

GENUINE 55 year old male seeking bi male 60 plus for discreet fun txt only. Text only to Mailbox No: 459566

MATURE male 70 seeking similar male for discreet meetings. Text only to Mailbox No: 4630151

BI curious man looking for bi or gay man in same area for fun and more - 40-50yrs old. Newport. Text only to Mailbox No: 4366908

69YR old male C/D, very genuine, affectionate, and discreet, seeks mature male for meetings, B'ham, Coventry, Wars. Text only to Mailbox No: 4747481

LONELY mother seeks female friends for entertaining/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241

ATTRACTIVE full figure lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4463526

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. Text only to Mailbox No: 4826789

SINGLE male not smoker, looking for soulmate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550

MALE, 49, looking for a 30-45 yr old female who has an interest in countryside pursuits. Text only to Mailbox No: 4829659

MALE, 59, discreet, fit body, seeks lady for no strings fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4823076

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. Text only to Mailbox No: 4826789

SINGLE male not smoker, looking for soulmate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

Friends

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/l with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

CHRISTINE, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

JEAN, 58, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

EILEEN, 49, lovely blonde, adventurous and energetic, seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive blonde looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion, s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416159

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive blonde looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion, s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416159

TALL, dark, attractive white male, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun, 20-45. A/C. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483

GODD 36 years old guy seeking a lady to have a lasting friendship/relationship with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4856269

ANDY 40, own home, likes keep fit, cooking, night ins/out, seeks special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309103

TALL, dark, attractive white male, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun, 20-45. A/C. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483

SINGLE male not smoker, looking for soulmate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550

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Albion look to strike deal on Bluebirds goalkeeper

ALBION remain hopeful of striking a deal for Cardiff City goalkeeper David Marshall in the coming days.

Tony Pulis is eager to add another goalkeeper to his squad and the 30-year-old Scotland international is now his No.1 target after attempts to prise Wayne Hennessey away from Crystal Palace came to nothing.

Negotiations with the Welsh club are ongoing, though – contrary to some reports yesterday – a fee is yet to be agreed.

Marshall took part in an open training session in Cardiff yesterday but it is understood to be keen on a move back to the Premier League.

It is thought the Bluebirds will demand around £6million for a player regarded as one of the best in the Championship, though the fact Marshall has a three-game ban carried over from last season may also have an impact on the speed of any deal being completed.

Were the keeper to remain in Wales for the first week of the season, his suspension would be wiped out as the Bluebirds play three times.

A move to Albion before the start of the campaign would leave him unavailable until the end of the month.

Boaz Myhill, who signed a new two-year deal last month, now looks certain to start the season between the sticks but Pulis has made no secret of his desire to introduce a younger alternative to challenge Myhill and regular No.1 Ben Foster.

The latter won't be available for selection until October as he recovers from surgery.

Much activity to be ready for season

LAST season saw Old Hales first team placed fifth in a very competitive National 3 league.

Apart from three games that should have been won, the squad were close to a playoff position.

The club presented dinner on July 3 marked the season and its successes.

The award winners included first team forward, Tom King as most improved player, centre Carl Robinson as best and fairest player and Director of Rugby Gary Cox for overall services to the club.

The club as a whole had a successful season. The Colts showed promise with a young side developing well and looking good for the new season.

A Mini/Junior section under the continued Chair-

manship of John Wragg, continues to flourish and Ollie Taylor takes the role as club coaching co-ordinator to enable the best quality coaching support to our developing youngsters.

The club has seen a lot of development during the closed season including a new training surface costing more than £60,000 which has been prepared over the last 18 months.

This provides a long awaited all year round training surface, with floodlights, for the whole club to benefit from this coming season.

With joint working between the Rugby Section and the Association, the house and grounds have seen investment, including a mezzanine floor in the

entrance lobby and money invested in ground and building uplift.

On the Rugby Committee, Ian Bullock remains as Chairman with Tim Sherrey as Secretary and Tony Crocombe as Treasurer.

On the playing front Gary Cox continues as Director of Rugby with Dan Grant taking over as First Team Manager supported by Simon Hussey.

If anyone is interested in supporting the club either on or off the field they should visit the Old Halesians RFC Pitchero website and make contact with the relevant official or contact the club on 01562 883036

Bright boy steals the show to give Wolves edge

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett believes young match-winner Bright Enobakhare is ready for senior football after the 17-year-old's wonder goal at Doncaster.

Jackett's team ended their pre-season campaign on a high by edging a seven-goal thriller at Keppmoat Stadium.

Several fringe players impressed during the victory, giving Jackett a poser as he finalises his team for this Saturday's league kick-off at Blackburn Rovers.

But Enobakhare stole the show with a glorious individual winner, taking on three players before slotting home. Jackett said of the Nigerian teenager: "It was a great individual goal and I'm very pleased with him."

"He looked strong and around the box he's always going very direct."

"He's done very well, out of the young players he physically looks the strongest and going into the Championship you do need to be strong and have power through your team."

"He's had a good pre-season. He's still eligible for our youth team, we'll see what he can do this year but his appetite, his desire, his commitment to win the ball back, the physical nature of his game, does suggest he could do something in senior football this year."

Winger Jordan Graham also got on the scoresheet and Jackett said there were 'horses for courses' options for his squad.

"I think I know where we want to be. I think I know where we want to be as a club as well," he said.

"It's going to be a long season."

Brittany's a splash hit with fourth win

SWIMMING sensation Brittany Horton produced a personal best to win her fourth consecutive title at the British Summer Championships.

The 16-year-old, from Brierley Hill, recorded a time of just over one minute and one second in the final of the 100m backstroke.

Horton, who represents City of Birmingham Swimming Club, finished in joint first place despite competing in the 17-18 age bracket at the championships which were held in Sheffield.

Team-mate Chloe Finch, 17, from Rowley Regis, also tasted swimming success at the contest after claiming the silver medal in the 200m freestyle.

Horton is due to fly out to New Zealand next month to contest the Youth Commonwealth Games.

And she admits her fourth national title is the perfect preparation as she prepares to join up with Team England.

"I am absolutely delighted to have won," she said.

Personal

"I really didn't expect to. Competing against girls that are older than me, I went into the race thinking more about my time than a place. But when I realised I'd finished in joint first place with a personal best I was over the moon."

"It was the perfect result because all my training is being geared to me hitting top form in New Zealand."

"That is my main aim, I'm really looking forward to the Youth Commonwealth Games."

"But to claim a fourth straight national title was amazing. It really wasn't something I was expecting which made it even more pleasing."

Horton is now gearing herself up for four weeks of intensive training before she jets off to the Youth Commonwealth Games where she will compete in the 50m, 100, and 200m backstroke.

"The majority of the next four weeks will be spent in the pool or in the gym," she said. "I know there is a lot of hard work ahead but I'm looking forward to it all."

"It's such a great opportunity to be able to go out and compete in New Zealand that I'm going to make sure I give it everything I can."



Brittany Horton, left, won the 100m backstroke while Chloe Finch took silver in 200m freestyle

from her once her training programme is complete.

"It bodes really well because her focus has always been the Youth Commonwealth Games."

Manny has his sights set on the big time

CRADLEY Heath's Manny Zaber is thinking big as he looks to make himself known as a mini-Mike Tyson in professional boxing, writes Craig Birch.

The lightweight from Old Hill takes part in his second paid bout at the Banks's Stadium, Walsall on Friday September 4.

The 20-year-old turned over with a shutout points win over the much-travelled Qasim Hussain at Bedworth Civic Hall in June.

But the confident Zaber, another product of the unlicensed circuit, believes that performance barely scratches the surface of what he can do.

He said: "I boxed well that night and got the win."

Tickets are available now priced £30 standard and £40 stage ringside by 07881 376512.

Players must now wait for final round

IN the fourth round of Stourbridge chess club's Summer tournament Julie Wilson won against Don Currry and now shares the overall lead with Jeremy Fallowfield who took a half-point bye.

Dave Scriven suffered a shock defeat against Jeremy Humphries.

The final round will be held on August 12.

Club members will be able to sharpen up their play for the forthcoming season at the club's pre-season blitz tournament which will be held on August 26.

Stourbridge chess club is looking for new players for the forthcoming season which starts in September.

They meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Stourbridge institute.

Contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk.



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Sinclair puts down mark with hat-trick

Forest 3 Villa 3

WINGER Scott Sinclair was at his sparkling best for Villa with a hat-trick in their pre-season friendly at Nottingham Forest.

Sinclair, so often unable to pin down a starting place under boss Tim Sherwood, made a strong claim for inclusion in seven days' time.

Villa will kick off their Premier League campaign at new-boys Bournemouth with Sherwood, no doubt, telling them they must defend better.

Sinclair's treble put the claret and blues in control, after Forest striker Dexter Blackstock broke the deadlock inside the first 30 seconds.

There was a glut of late goals what went against the visitors, with strikes from captain Henri Lansbury and Kelvin Wilson snaring a draw.

Jose Angel Crespo and Jordan Ayew were handed their first starts for Villa, while latest signing Jordan Veretout was among the substitutes.

Carlos Sanchez was also back into the fold, after an extended break due to his involvement with Colombia in the Copa America.

Striker Rudy Gestede was left out of the match-day squad, having only completed his move from Blackburn Rovers on Friday afternoon.

Villa had barely drew breath before Lansbury's defence-splitting pass released Blackstock, who slotted under goalkeeping Mark Bunn.

Bunn was called into action 10 minutes later, diving to his left to tip away Jamie Ward's half-volley although the linesman had already flagged for an infringement against Blackstock.

Villa battled back and equalised in the 21st minute, when Jordan Amavi's ball from the left hand side was headed home by Sinclair.

Runner Baljit has to travel to Ireland to find a challenge

AFTER a flurry of activity last weekend this week was almost a blank calendar for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

With nothing local to choose from anyone looking for a race was forced to travel some distance to pull on the blue hoops and toe the start line in a competitive event.

With races in such scarce supply there was only one lone club representative in action.

Baljit Watson, travelled across the sea to Ireland to compete in the Dublin Half Marathon.

This 13.1 mile race doubled as the Irish National Half Marathon Championships taking in some of the Irish capital's major sights.

The race passed the famous Ha'Penny Bridge, Christ Church Cathedral and the St James' Gate home to the world famous Guinness Brewery and finishing in vast Phoenix Park.

Having passed the 10k mark in 1.06.11 Watson went on to complete the course in 2.06.04 finishing in 2,575th place overall and 812th female.

Old Hales prepare for new season

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Brittany is a splash hit

Page 39



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Albion move felt right, says Rickie

RICKIE Lambert has revealed he checked-in at Albion because "it just felt right at the beginning".

The forward had offers from other clubs but insisted there was barely a choice to be made once he learned of Tony Pulis' interest.

After notching a double on his debut at Bristol Rovers, the forward said: "There were a few interested but from the get-go Albion just stood out."

"I had known about it for a few days. Speaking to my family, speaking to everyone involved – and the manager Tony Pulis – it just felt right from the very beginning."

"After speaking to Tony, I felt like it was something I needed to do."

Football

"I think it can be good for me and I think it could be good for them."

While he wants to get back to scoring goals, the striker insists he is feeling no extra pressure.

He added: "I always feel like I have a point to prove to myself that is always the biggest drive for myself and it will carry on that way."

"That is why it was a big decision and why I made the decision to get back playing football and trying to score goals."

"That is what I play football for and why I like

playing football." Lambert was so eager to sign and get minutes under his belt that the player and club sped up the finalising of his deal, which was completed on Friday.

"On Thursday night I did not think it was going to happen (the Bristol game)," he said.

"We kind of both speeded it up so I could be involved."

"Obviously it being my old club I have some fond memories there and to get some minutes under my belt."

"I have not played a lot in pre-season so I thought it was important to push it through and get some minutes I feel good for it."

Scorecard 'flattered opponents'

HALESOWEN skipper Rich Brookner says Saturday's scorecard flattered Eastnor after seeing his side claim a winning draw.

Brookner's side put in a powerhouse batting display with openers Ed Kilbee and Ben Stebbings in fine form to notch 82 and 83 respectively.

They went on to score 364-6 from their 55 overs, securing four league batting points along the way.

Jack Myers dug deep for the visitors with an unbeaten 59 in the middle order as they held out towards the end for 199-7.

Brookner himself took three wickets for Halesowen with one each for Eddie Rhodes, Dan Jeavons, Faisal Shahid and Tarryck Gabriel.

Said Brookner: "Some late hitting in the last few overs by Eastnor made it look closer than it really was."

"A very good innings from both openers (Kilbee and Stebbings) set up the innings allowing us to score quickly at the back end."

"Although we did not get off to the start we wished to have in the field, two wickets in two balls brought the game back under control with Eastnor never threatening the winning draw score."

And Halesowen Chairman Richard Evans is pleased with the continued improvement of the side.

He said: "I'm delighted with the team spirit and the change in fortunes."

"The team appears to be developing into what we hoped for at the start of the season."

Halesowen are back on the road this Saturday when they head to Brewood with the seconds in a tasty local derby with Old Hill at Seth Somers Park with the game starting at 12.30pm.

Gelder comes close but loses on points

DUDLEY'S Jamie Gelder pushed Nadia Decastro close but was outpointed by a round in their rescheduled bout on Saturday night, writes Craig Birch.

Gelder was defeated 39-38 at Leeds United Football Club, in a fight that had to be postponed for several days.

They were ready to step into the ring the previous weekend at the Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire but rioting spectators caused it to be rescheduled.

The 23-year-old middleweight was previously stopped twice in the first round last winter, although he cried foul through injury and low blows. The Decastro loss makes it six straight defeats.

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STOUR IN FIGHT TO BEAT DROP

Sutton Coldfield 1st XI 81-3
Stourbridge 1st XI 78-10
Sutton Coldfield win

THE battle to avoid relegation is heating up with just seven weeks of the league cricket remaining.

Eastnor, Stourbridge and Brewood will be fighting for every point to avoid the drop down to Division Three of the Birmingham and District Premier league.

Last Saturday Brewood banked 24 points by beating Coventry North West, Eastnor held Halesowen to a losing draw and banked seven points and Stourbridge lost to Sutton Coldfield scrambling one point.

The results mean Eastnor on 97 holds up Division Two, Stourbridge next up are on 111 points and Brewood are safe in third from bottom on 121 points.

Stourbridge, away to Sutton Coldfield, were beaten by seven wickets after another batting failure.

Put into bat Stour's No.6 Jitesh Jivan-Patel top scored with 31 runs off 47 deliveries.

Venomous

Dan Child's pacey spells bought him three wickets for 10 runs; Equally venomous James Hunt bagged all four Stour top order for 22 off his 12 overs.

Skittled out by arguably the best attack in the Division, Stour's dejection continued official turning down a close LBW shout off Jivan-Patel's first delivery to Jack Smith.

Sutton Coldfield placed second and in contention for Division Two honours overcame Stour's strong challenge with very little to defend. Three wickets down the home side romped to victory in the 15th over.

Opener Lewis Harrison prevented Stour penetrating scoring 31 off 35 balls. He and No.3 Lee Thomason (20) put on 38 to maintain their team's strong hold.

A heavy shower threatened the inevitable outcome but the summer sun spoiled Stour's possible escape. Juniad Afzal captured the three wickets to fall for 31 runs off 6 overs.

It's hammer time for Heathens



Max Clegg with Heathens colleague Mike Neale. Picture John Hipkiss

CRADLEY are expecting the biggest crowd of the season when they host the showpiece Golden Hammer individual meeting at Perry Barr next Wednesday at 7.30pm.

The event, in association with Dudley Stroke Association, is expected to pull in thousands of fans from throughout the region with arguably the strongest line-up since the meeting was re-launched five years ago.

Heathens skipper Max Clegg will face a stern test in Cradley's individual meeting, with some of the top riders in the third tier such as Bradley Wilson-Dean, Adam Ellis and Zach Wajneke featuring as well as former Heathens ace Ashley Morris. Admission is £13 for adults

and £10 for concessions, and Heathens season tickets are also valid for a busy evening featuring 20 races.

With large numbers expected to be cheering him on, Clegg has revealed his desire to overcome a tough field and follow in the footsteps of Lewis Blackbird and Steve Worrall to become the third successive home winner of the Hammer.

"It's one of the biggest meetings of the season, so I'd obviously love to win it," Clegg said. "I've been riding well recently and I'm feeling confident, so hopefully I can carry that on next week. I've ridden in it a few years now so I know how big it is."

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